

Lewes Landscape Character Assessment

Lewes District Council

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Quality information

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2022, Lewes District Council commissioned AECOM Ltd to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment for the rural landscape within the district, outside of the South Downs National Park. The Landscape Character Assessment will form part of the evidence base for the new Lewes District Local Plan and will assist in guiding and informing spatial planning and development management decisions.

The Role of Landscape Character Assessment

- 1.2 Natural England¹ define Landscape Character Assessment as:

“the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features (characteristics) that make landscapes distinctive.”

- 1.3 Landscape Character Assessment covers themes of the social, cultural, perceptual, aesthetic, and natural environment. It covers both rural and urban landscapes, recognising that all landscapes are important. Landscape Character Assessment also addresses in part the general and specific obligations for landscape protection, management and planning as set out in Articles 5 and 6 of the *European Landscape Convention*².
- 1.4 Landscape Character Assessment can be used as a tool to help understand what the landscape is like today, the influence of the past, and how the landscape may change in the future. Landscape Character Assessments provide a framework to help protect, manage, enhance, mitigate, and restore landscapes in the future and retain their distinctiveness, whilst guiding future development. The Landscape Character Assessment will provide a baseline of information that can be used by landowners, managers, developers, communities, and planning authorities when making decisions regarding spatial planning and future land use and management decisions in the district.
- 1.5 Landscape Character Assessment can be undertaken at a variety of scales and to differing levels of detail. This Landscape Character Assessment forms a district level of information alongside national and county published Landscape Character Assessments.
- 1.6 This Landscape Character Assessment should be read in conjunction with the current South Downs National Park Landscape Character Assessment. Together with this Landscape Character Assessment, the South Downs National Park Landscape Character Assessment provides a comprehensive coverage of Landscape Character Assessment information for the district.
- 1.7 This Landscape Character Assessment should also be read in conjunction High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Landscape Character Assessment, due to the proximity of the northern part of the district with the designation. This assessment should also be read in conjunction with the current South Downs National Park and High Weald AONB's respective management plans.
- 1.8 Natural England¹ define Landscape Character Types as:

“distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but whenever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use, and settlement pattern”.

¹ Natural England (2014) *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*. [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691184/landscape-character-assessment.pdf

² Council of Europe (2000) *Council of Europe Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176)*. [online] Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treaty-num=176>

1.9 Natural England¹ define Landscape Character Areas as:

"These are single unique areas which are discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type. Each will have its own individual character and identity, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other areas of the same type".

- 1.10 This Landscape Character Assessment describes and maps the elements and features that make up distinctively different Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) throughout the rural part of the district and based upon the above definitions. The Landscape Character Assessment study area is shown on **Figure 1: Location and Landscape Designations**.

Relationship With Other Studies

National Level

- 1.11 With reference to **Figure 2: National Character and Seascape Areas**, at a national level, England is divided into 159 National Character Areas (NCAs)³, as published by Natural England. The NCAs are a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity which makes each area unique in terms of its landscape character. NCAs are defined based on their landscape characteristics rather than following administrative boundaries.
- 1.12 Lewes District lies is covered by two NCAs, which are outlined below:
- NCA 121: Low Weald⁴. This is described by the published study as *“a broad, low-lying clay vale which largely wraps around the northern, western and southern edges of the High Weald. It is predominantly agricultural, supporting mainly pastoral farming owing to heavy clay soils, with horticulture and some arable on lighter soils in the east, and has many densely wooded areas with a high proportion of ancient woodland.”*
 - NCA 125: South Downs⁵. This is described by the published study as *“a ‘whale-backed’ spine of chalk stretching from the Hampshire Downs in the west to the coastal cliffs of Beachy Head in East Sussex. The majority of the area falls within the South Downs National Park. The South Downs NCA is an extremely diverse and complex landscape with considerable local variation representing physical, historical and economic influences; much of it has been formed and maintained by human activity, in particular in agriculture and forestry.”*
- 1.13 Lewes District also has a coastal border. At a national level, England is divided into 11 Marine Plan Areas (MPAs)⁶ to incorporate both onshore and offshore areas. MPAs are then grouped into six Marine Character Regions (MCRs). There are descriptive profiles available for MCRs setting out both the marine and seascape character, historic and cultural use, and an assessment of ecosystem services delivered.
- 1.14 Each MPA is further divided into Marine Character Areas (MCAs). The Marine Management Organisation⁷ has defined MCAs as follows:
- “Each MCA has its own individual character and identity, even though it can share the same generic characteristics as other areas. The use of MCAs provides a good framework within which to draw out patterns of local distinctiveness and those factors influencing sense of place. They can be used to develop more tailored policies or strategies, reflecting the things that make a particular area different, distinctive or special. Character areas may also be more recognisable and identifiable for non-specialists (than character types)”.*
- 1.15 The two MCAs covering Lewes District are:
- MCA 7: Selsey Bill to Seaford Head⁸. This is described by the published study as *“an extensive bay with boundaries formed in the west by the low lying headland of Selsey Bill and to the east by the distinctive chalk cliffs of Seaford Head, where the South Downs National Park boundary meets the coast. It includes the expansive urban development along the coastline.”*

³ Natural England (2013-15) *National Character Areas*. [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles>

⁴ Natural England (2013) NCA Profile:121 Low Weald (NE450). [online] Available at:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/12332031?category=587130>

⁵ Natural England (2013) NCA Profile:125: South Downs (NE432). [online] Available at:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/7433354?category=587130>

⁶ Marine Management Organisation (2014) *Marine Plan Areas in England*. [online] Available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-plan-areas-in-england>

⁷ Marine Management Organisation (2014) *Seascape assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas: technical report*. [online] Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/488992/Seascape_assessment_for_the_South_inshore_and_offshore_marine_plans_MMO_1037_final_report.pdf

⁸ Marine Management Organisation (2013) *MCA 7: Selsey Bill to Seaford Head*. [online] Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/321936/1037g.pdf

- MCA 8: South Downs Maritime⁹. This is described by the published study as a “*co-incident with the area of coastline defined as the Sussex Heritage Coast along the distinctive white cliffs of the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head between Seaford and Eastbourne. It is the maritime extent of the South Downs National Park*”.
- 1.16 This information has been reviewed as part of the process of this Landscape Character Assessment and informed the study where relevant. It is acknowledged that the study area of the national level assessments are at a considerably larger scale and published near to a decade prior.

County Level

- 1.17 With reference to **Figure 3: East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment, 2016**, at a county level, the East Sussex County Landscape Assessment¹⁰ was published in 2016 and identifies 26 Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs) and 13 urban areas. This published study has been reviewed as part of the process of this Landscape Character Assessment due to its geographic coverage including parts of the study area; however, it is acknowledged that the East Sussex County Landscape Assessment was intended to provide a larger scale county level assessment and is a broader review.
- 1.18 The LLCAs and urban areas covering the study area are:
- LLCA 3: Upper Ouse Valley. The current condition of which is described by the published study as “*a largely unspoilt and tranquil rural landscape with few intrusive features. The landscape is in generally good condition and well managed as farmland with a strong historic structure. Agricultural change and diversification has led to some gentrification of the rural landscape and farm steads.*”
 - LLCA 14: Western Low Weald. The current condition of which is described by the published study as “*a largely unspoilt and pleasant rural landscape with few intrusive features. The landscape is in generally good condition and well managed as farmland with a strong historic structure. This is reflected in the southern part of the area which is in the South Downs National Park and is the setting for the downland scarp. The larger villages have some modern urban edges which intrude into the rural countryside. In areas with more intensive arable agriculture the hedgerows and hedgerow trees have been removed which detracts from the distinctive pattern and character of the landscape.*”
 - LLCA 15: Eastern Low Weald. The current condition of which is described by the published study as “*a largely unspoilt tract of countryside with much of the historic rural character intact. The distinctive pattern of rural lanes and scattered unspoilt villages reinforces the historic character. Agricultural intensification has caused the removal of some hedgerows and hedgerow trees which has detracted from the historic landscape character in some areas. Farm diversification on small holdings and estates has led to the replacement of hedges with wire fencing for horse paddocks which dilutes field patterns. Lack of management and under exploited productivity of some farm land. The Cuckmere River channel follows a meandering route across the area.*”
 - LLCA 18: Falmer Telscombe Downs. This LLCA is referred to within the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment¹¹.
 - LLCA 19: Lower Ouse Valley. This LLCA is referred to within the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment¹¹.
 - LLCA 21: Firle Bishopstone Downs. This LLCA is referred to within the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment¹¹.
 - Urban Area 28: Saltdean – Peacehaven. The vision for which is described by the published study as “*a stimulating coastal-urban environment, with a sense of place and focal town centres, strengthened neighbourhood character and enhanced relationship of the whole area to its coastline*”.
 - Urban Area 32: Seaford. The vision for which is described by the published study as “*a town with a distinctive downland and coastal character, noted for its ‘old village’ core, flint pebble walls, mature elm*”.

⁹ Marine Management Organisation (2013) *MCA 8: South Downs Maritime*, [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/321937/1037h.pdf

¹⁰ East Sussex County Council (2016) *East Sussex County Landscape Assessment*. [online] Available at: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/landscape/landscape>

¹¹ South Downs National Park Authority (2020) *South Downs National Park Landscape Character Assessment*. [online] Available at: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/landscape-design-conservation/south-downs-landscape-character-assessment/south-downs-landscape-character-assessment-2020/south-downs-landscape-character-assessment-2020-technical-papers/>

trees, Corsican pines and sycamores. An improved seafront with its fine backdrop and strengthened links with the 'old village'.

- Urban Area 34: Newhaven. The vision for which is described by the published study as “a small, robustly attractive port town providing a welcoming introduction to the county for visitors and making the most of its dramatic setting.”

The South Downs National Park

1.19 The South Downs National Park Landscape Character Assessment¹¹ was published in 2020 and identifies Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas. The National Park level LCAs are shown on **Figure 4: South Downs National Park Landscape Character Assessment, 2020**. This study has been reviewed as part of the process of this Landscape Character Assessment and informed the study where relevant. It should be noted that the study areas of this Landscape Character Assessment and the South Downs National Park Landscape Character Assessment are different.

1.20 The LCAs adjacent to the study area are:

- LCAA1: Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs. This is described by the published study as “*the Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs occurs at the eastern end of the spine of chalk that forms the South Downs. The area extends from the deep U-shaped Ouse Valley in the west to Eastbourne/ Beachy Head in the east. The crest of the steep scarp defines the northern and eastern extent of the character area. To the south the boundary is defined by the coastline where high, chalk cliffs mark a sharp transition to the shore. The character area is divided into two parts by the Cuckmere Valley. This is the only character area that meets the sea, with associated strong maritime influences and extensive sea views*”.
- LCAA2: Adur to Ouse Open Downs. This is described by the published study as “*the Adur to Ouse Open Downs extend between the two river valleys and wrap around the northern and eastern edge of Brighton. To the east they abut the edge of Lewes, which has extended up onto the downland from the Ouse valley. The area is defined to the north by the crest of the north facing scarp, the Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp, and to the south largely by the National Park boundary approximately along the line of the A27 (T) and forming the urban edge of Peacehaven, Brighton, Hove, Southwick and Shoreham. To the south there is an abrupt boundary between the lower slopes of the downs and the urban area on the coastal plain and frequent views across development. This is a particularly dramatic part of the Open Downs with the prominent northern scarp reaching 248m at Ditchling Beacon*.”
- LCA F2: Ouse Floodplain. This is described by the published study as “*the Ouse Floodplain occupies the flat valley floor of the Ouse Valley, a particularly wide valley that cuts through the South Downs from Lewes to the coast of Newhaven. The eastern and western boundaries of the floodplain are clearly defined by the break of slope between the flat floodplain and rising valley sides. These boundaries also coincide with the extent of underlying river alluvium. The Ouse Floodplain continues beyond the boundary of the designated National Park northwards, into the Low Weald, and south east, to surround Newhaven*.”
- LCA G2: Ouse Valley Sides. This is described by the published study as “*the Ouse Valley Sides enclose the Ouse Floodplain, a particularly wide floodplain that cuts through the South Downs between Lewes in the north and Newhaven in the south. The bottom edge of each valley side is clearly defined by the junction with the flat floodplain - this also coincides with the extent of underlying river alluvium. The upper edge of the valley is defined by the crest of the slope and has been drawn along the apparent skyline of the valley as seen from the valley bottom. To the north the valley meets the scarp north of Lewes, and to the south the valley sides meet the National Park boundary which also coincides with the urban edge of Newhaven. There are views from the valley sides over the Ouse floodplain*.”
- LCA J1: Ouse to Eastbourne Scarp Footslopes. This is described by the published study as “*the Ouse to Eastbourne Scarp Footslopes forms a relatively narrow strip of land at the foot of the northern scarp of the Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp, between Lewes and Eastbourne. The character area is divided in three by the River Cuckmere and Glynde Reach. There are also two small outliers which have been separated from the remainder of the area by built development on the edge of Eastbourne. The southern boundary of this character area is defined by the steep scarp of the Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp and has been drawn along the southern edge of the arable fields that form part of the Scarp Footslopes. To the north the character area extends beyond the National Park boundary (marked by the A27) where it forms a gradual transition to the landscape of the Low Weald*.”

- LCA J2: Adur to Ouse Scarp Footslopes. This is described by the published study as *“the Adur to Ouse Scarp Footslopes form a wide band of lowland at the foot of the northern scarp of the Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp, between Upper Beeding and Lewes. The southern boundary of this character area is defined by the steep scarp of the Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp and has been drawn along the southern edge of the arable fields that form part of the Scarp Footslopes. To the north the character area forms a gradual transition to the landscape of the Low Weald.”*

Planning Policy Context

- 1.21 The *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF)¹² was updated in July 2021. This document sets out the Government’s planning policies within England and their application. The NPPF sets out in paragraph 174 that *“planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment”*. Landscape Character Assessment contributes to this statement as on the ways in which this can be undertaken is listed in the NPPF as follows:

“recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services”.

- 1.22 This Landscape Character Assessment forms a sound evidence base to support the landscape policy and other character policies within the new Local Plan for Lewes District. The way in which it will do this is set out in the Natural England guidance¹ as follows:

- *“Describe a landscape with reference to the characteristics that combine to make a place distinctive;*
- *Give spatial reference to baseline information / evidence via mapped landscape character areas / types;*
- *Inform understanding of key characteristics, sense of place, special qualities etc. that can then inform judgements – decision making - regarding, for example, development management and the siting, design, scale and massing of developments from housing developments and transport infrastructure to forests, woodlands, or renewable energy projects; and*
- *Assist with the monitoring of change.”*

¹² Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2021) *National Planning Policy Framework*. [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

2. Methodology

Approach

- 2.1 This Landscape Character Assessment has used best practice guidance as published by Natural England in 2014, *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*¹. As set out in chapter 1, the Landscape Character Assessment also involves a review of existing published Landscape Character studies covering Lewes District and within adjacent districts to ensure consistency of descriptions and cross boundary characterisation.

Study Area

- 2.2 With reference to **Figure 1: Location and Landscape Designations**, the Landscape Character Assessment study area covers the rural areas of Lewes District. This is considered to be the land beyond the defined settlement boundaries. The study area is denoted on Plate 1 below in a red line, with the settlement areas in an orange fill, the South Downs National Park in a green hatch and the High Weald AONB in a yellow fill.

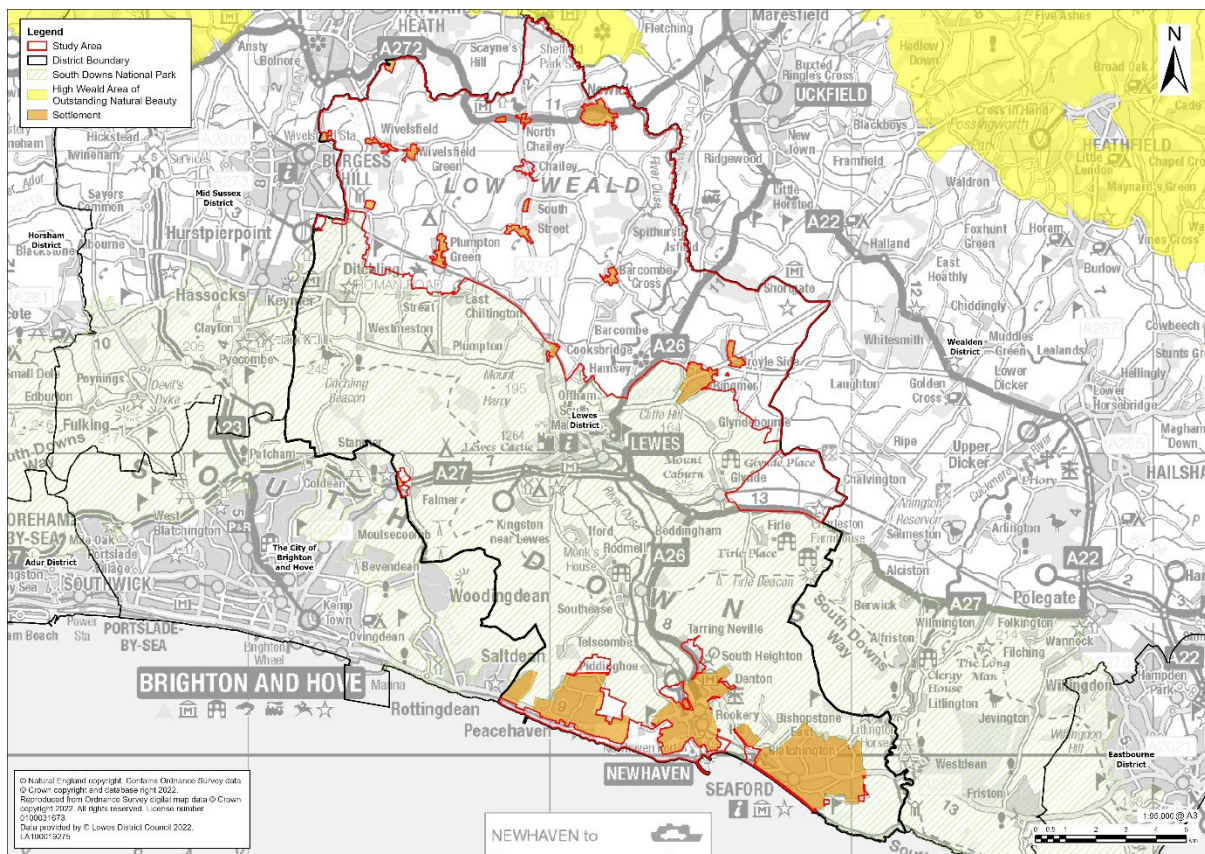


Plate 1: Extract of Figure 1 showing the study area, settlement areas, South Downs National Park and High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- 2.3 Lewes District is located within East Sussex County Council and lies adjacent to the southern coast of England. Lewes District is bound by Mid Sussex District to the north-west, Brighton and Hove unitary authority to the south-west and Wealden District to the east. Further to the east lies Eastbourne District.
- 2.4 With reference to **Figure 1: Location and Landscape Designations**, the High Weald AONB covers land adjacent to the north of Lewes District and is therefore excluded from the study. The South Downs National Park lies within the central part of Lewes District is excluded from the study area as it is covered by its own published Landscape Character Assessment.
- 2.5 The study area has been broadly differentiated into three main geographical areas as follows:

- The northern part of the study area: this is the largest part of the study area and includes the rural landscape to the north of Lewes and east of the urban edge of Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath.
- The southern part of the study area: this includes the landscape edges adjacent to the settlements of Newhaven, Peacehaven, Seaford and part of Saltdean.
- The western part of the study area: this is a small geographical area situated between the edge of the settlement of Falmer in the South Downs National Park, and the urban fringe of the townscape of Brighton and Hove.

Methodology and Process

- 2.6 Landscape Character Assessment is the process of systematically characterising, describing and mapping the landscape. It does not seek to attach any landscape value to the types and areas that it defines. This Landscape Character Assessment has followed Natural England's¹ four iterative steps as outlined below:

1) Define purpose and scope

- 2.7 This Landscape Character Assessment maps the study area into Landscape Character Types and geographically unique Landscape Character Areas. Landscape Character Types are generic and can occur in several different locations and across various scales having the same characteristics and are recognisably the same as each other. Landscape Character Areas are unique with only one area with that particular name that demonstrates the particular characteristics found in that area.

2) Desk study

- 2.8 A preliminary desk-based study was used as a basis for further investigation from field surveys and stakeholder engagement. This includes draft Landscape Character Areas and Types. Desk study has included reference to numerous key documents, which are relevant at the time of writing. These documents, or their superseded versions, should be read in conjunction with this Landscape Character Assessment. These can be referred to at **Appendix A: Sources of Information**.

3) Field study

- 2.9 Field survey work was undertaken within October 2022. This was undertaken using ArcGIS Field Maps and ArcGIS Survey123 to assist in data collection. Refer to **Appendix B: Field Study Sheet**. Field survey work to ground truth the desk-based studies and to capture the aesthetic, perceptual, and experiential qualities of landscapes that are often only identifiable through field survey or stakeholder engagement. Use of an electronic field survey sheet developed using best practice guidance to record findings in-situ.
- 2.10 Limitations in the field survey work were due to access to parts of the study area often being limited to minor roads and private tracks. There are also some parts of the study area that are largely inaccessible to the public due to a lack of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and private tracks most notably the area to the east of Glynde and north of Firle Park. However, this has not limited the assessment due to reviews of on-line mapping, aerial photography and analysis from train journeys, supplemented by desk-based study.

4) Classification and description of Landscape Character Types and Areas

- 2.11 Further desk-based study and analysis of field surveys and stakeholder engagement to refine, classify, map, and describe the proposed Landscape Character Types and Areas. The Landscape Character Assessment reflects the landscape at a particular moment in time and is reflective of the professional interpretation of the Chartered Landscape Architects carrying out the assessment to the criteria defined in best practice guidance¹.

Stakeholder input

- 2.12 As set out within the published guidance¹, stakeholder input can add value to Landscape Character Assessments. A range of stakeholders in the district were contacted to provide input into the perceptual and aesthetic elements of the landscape, including memories, associations and sight. In November 2022

Chailey Commons Society provided feedback which was discussed at a Committee Meeting of the Society. This information has been used directly in the assessment of the Chailey Common area.

- 2.13 In November 2022, a virtual meeting was held with officers of the South Downs National Park Authority and The High Weald AONB Partnership. This meeting discussed the outputs of the Landscape Character Assessment, with specific reference to the setting of the National Park and AONB. This included splitting the setting of the National Park and AONB into visual, landscape and perceptual types. It should be noted that some landscapes can contribute to these types of setting in all three ways and others only in one. Further detail is given as follows:

- Landscape setting: Similar characteristics to the National Park or AONB.
- Visual setting: Intervisibility with the National Park or AONB, including both views to and from the designated landscape.
- Perceptual setting: Totally different characteristics but similar perceptual qualities, such as dark skies.

Outputs

- 2.14 The outputs of the Landscape Character Assessment are:

- A high-level review of published information regarding the natural, cultural and social, perceptual and aesthetic information of the study area.
- Mapping of the boundaries of each Landscape Character Type and Landscape Character Area.
- Photographs to illustrate the key characteristics and typical appearance of each Landscape Character Area.
- Description of the distinctive elements within each Landscape Character Area; including information about the topography and hydrology, geology and soils, land use, vegetation cover, built form, field patterns, landscape elements, historical influences and perceptual elements such as tranquillity.
- Information about the forces for change which have shaped the current landscape character, and which could alter or influence the future landscape character.
- Guidelines to inform future land management and development, within each Landscape Character Area as appropriate.

3. Formative Influences

- 3.1 The first part of this chapter summarises the main physical and cultural influences that have shaped the landscape of Lewes District. The landscape of the district has evolved through the interaction of the natural environment and human activities, through the combination of physical and cultural influences. Physical influences such as geology and landform, together with the pattern of settlement and land use are key determinants of landscape character.
- 3.2 The second part of this chapter reviews the perceptual aspects of sight, tranquillity and the character of the night sky in relation to published information. Further reference to perceptual and aesthetic qualities, such as touch, feel, smell and sounds, is referred to in the key characteristics of the defined Landscape Character Areas, based upon the information obtained during the fieldwork and through stakeholder engagement.

Natural Influences

Geology

- 3.3 With reference to **Figure 5: Geology**, the study area comprises a mixture of superficial and bedrock geology¹³. The underlying geology has historically provided materials for industry, supporting a variety of diverse land uses and ecosystem services, whilst also providing rich habitats for wildlife.
- 3.4 The northern part of the study area lies predominantly within the Low Weald, and is more varied, with bands of different formations of mudstone, sandstone, siltstone and limestone. The majority of the bedrock to the north of this northern part is Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, comprising a mixture of thinly bedded silty mudstones, siltstones, silty sandstones and fine-grained sandstones. Interspersed within this are localised areas of Ardingly Sandstone, Grinstead clay mudstone and Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand.
- 3.5 The geology transitions southwards across the northern part of the study area into a Weald clay formation. This formation consists of a dark grey thinly bedded mudstones and mudstones with subordinate siltstones, fine-to medium-grained sandstones, including calcareous sandstone, shelly limestones and clay ironstones. Within the wider group, ribbons of Silicate claystone, Limestone, and Sandstone are present.
- 3.6 The western part of the study area is closely linked with the geology of the South Downs National Park, with Newhaven chalk forming the majority of the bedrock with several patches of clay, silt and sand of the Lambeth group in the vicinity of Falmer.
- 3.7 The geology of the southern part of the study area is similar to the western part, with the band of Newhaven chalk that extends from Brighton to Seaford covering this area. There are localised pockets of clay, silt and sand of the Lambeth group in the vicinity of the major coastal towns of Peacehaven and Seaford.

Soils

- 3.8 The same distinction between the north and the south of Lewes District for the underlying geology broadly applies to the soils found across the study area.
- 3.9 To the north of the chalk ridge, the bedrock of the lowland supports deeper, heavier clayey loam soils that provide largely pastoral grassland for agriculture and woodland areas. This is typical of the northern part of the study area with a large band of clayey loam to sandy loam prevailing as the underlying soil type. With reference to **Figure 6: Agricultural Land Classification**, the majority of the northern part of the study area is considered Grade 3 (Good to Moderate) agricultural land with areas of Grade 4 (Poor) agricultural land as defined by the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system.
- 3.10 Within the western part of the study area, the soils are predominantly slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. With reference to **Figure 6: Agricultural Land Classification**, the southern area

¹³ British Geological Survey (2017) *The BGS Lexicon of Named Rock Units provides our definitions of the geological units of the UK and its continental shelf*. [online] Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/technologies/the-bgs-lexicon-of-named-rock-units/>

in the western part of the study area is classed as non-agricultural and the northern area as Grade 3 (Good to Moderate) agricultural land.

- 3.11 The chalky bedrock within the southern part of the study area supports shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone. Also within the southern part of the study area are pockets of other types of soils, including freely draining slightly acid loamy soils and freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils. With reference to **Figure 6: Agricultural Land Classification**, the landscape within the southern part of the study area is mixed, including non-agricultural, Grade 2 (Very Good) agricultural land, Grade 3 (Good to Moderate) agricultural land and Grade 4 (Poor) agricultural land.

Landform and Hydrology

- 3.12 With reference to **Figure 7: Topography and Hydrology**, the northern part of the study area lies within the Low Weald landscape and is characterised by gently undulating lowland areas and heavy clay soils which are generally lower in permeability. The northern part of the study area includes localised high points and falls in landform relating to the course of the River Ouse and its various tributaries which meander through the landscape. Localised high points include +75 metres (m) Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) within Chailey Common and +59m AOD to the south-west of South Chailey.
- 3.13 For large areas of the northern part of the study area, the landform does not exceed +30m AOD. This low-lying nature does make water an important part of the character of the northern part and there are three operational catchments. This combination of terrain and clay soil means that areas such as Barcombe Mills are prone to localised flooding¹⁴. The Environment Agency place many of the riverine areas within the northern part at high and medium risk of surface water flooding¹⁵. This large number of small to medium sized waterbodies, largely as a consequence of the proportion of clay soils are an important component of the northern part of the study area's topography, character and identity. They are of landscape, nature conservation and heritage value. Many of the ponds were created by the industrial heritage of the area. The water meadows and extensive floodplains of the River Ouse are characteristic of the area, as are the areas of wet woodland¹⁵.
- 3.14 The western part of the study area is gently undulating, due to forming part of the transition with the South Downs National Park. The landform lies between approximately +80m AOD to +110m AOD. There are no hydrological features of note within the western part of the study area.
- 3.15 The landform across the southern part of the study area is also undulating as the land rises and falls between the chalk headland and the Ouse Estuary. There are some localised high points with relatively steeper inclines, including within the coastal landscape between Peacehaven and Newhaven at Fort Newhaven reaching +87m AOD at Rushy Hill. Within the southern part of the study area, chalk aquifers are vital in the supply of water to the district and account for a large proportion of the abstracted water for public supply. As the principal aquifer for the region, the importance of the role in ecosystem services cannot be understated. The area is within an area of high groundwater vulnerability. The study area lies within the wider area classified as 'Serious' on the Water Stress Classification¹⁶. The southern part of the study area also lies adjacent to the coastline.

Flora and Fauna

- 3.16 With reference to **Figure 8: Flora and Fauna**, the distribution of vegetation within the study area is associated with the diverse geology, landform and soils present. This is particularly notable in the northern part of the study area. NCA 121: Low Weald⁴ states that the northern part of the study area is "*generally wet and woody*" and this defines the dominant vegetation and ecological habitats present. The River Ouse and its associated floodplain with meandering tree lined minor river and stream valleys intersperse the northern part of the study area with trees such as alder, willow, and poplar prevalent. There are also priority habitat areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh around Lewes, Glynde, and Isfield that provide habitats for foraging and breeding wader birds¹⁷.

¹⁴ Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority (2016) *Lewes District Local Plan Part 1 Joint Core Strategy 2010-2030*. [online] Available at: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/lewes-core-strategy-local-plan-part-1/>

¹⁵ Environment Agency (2022) *Learn more about flood risk*. [online] Available at: <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/map>

¹⁶ Environment Agency and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2021) *Water stressed areas – 2021 classification*. [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-stressed-areas-2021-classification>

¹⁷ <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/habitats/grassland/coastal-and-floodplain-grazing-marsh>

- 3.17 The western and northern parts of the study area comprise predominantly broadleaf woodland with oak and ash, some of which is designated as ancient woodland. Some areas of woodland are fragmented following assarting dating back to medieval times. These also define the character of the small and irregular field patterns along with the often species rich hedgerows and shaws that may be remnants of the woodland assarting.
- 3.18 Other vegetation types across the study area include the lowland heathlands within Chailey Common, the lowland dry acid grassland around Ditchling Common and the seam of chalk rivers that run across the southern edge of the northern part. There are also distinct vegetation types within the maritime cliffs and slopes between Peacehaven and Newhaven, the coastal vegetated shingle at Seaford Bay, and the mudflats around South Heighton.
- 3.19 With reference to **Figure 9: Nature Conservation Designations**, the Brighton and Lewes Downs Biosphere reserve is home to 211 species that have been recorded on international conservation lists¹⁸ and includes the southern, western and a small section of the northern part of the study area. At the national level, are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) including Ditchling Common SSSI, Chailey Common SSSI and Plashett Park Wood SSSI in the northern part and the Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs SSSI in the southern part. At a local level, many of these areas are also designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in the southern part is home to many nationally rare and significant species of plants, birds and insects¹⁹.

Climate

- 3.20 Lewes District is located in the south-east of England and has a temperate climate. In winter, average temperatures stay above freezing and are typically between four and 11 degrees Celsius across a 24-hour period. During the summer, the average temperatures are between nine- and 20-degrees Celsius. Rainfall is typically higher in late autumn and early winter with approximately 55 to 75mm of rain received over typically five to seven rainy days. In the summer, rainfall drops to approximately 50mm over three to four rainy days²⁰.
- 3.21 Landform and vegetation cover do contribute to localised conditions with coastal influences within the southern part of the study area affecting temperatures, windchill and humidity compared with lower more heavily vegetated inland areas of the western and northern parts. The many small rivers, streams and watercourses also contribute to localised microclimates.
- 3.22 The long-term climatic trends for the district align with national trends²¹ with typically milder, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. There is also an increased prevalence of extreme weather events. Lewes District Council declared a climate emergency on the 15th July 2019²² with the “*main purpose being to commit to becoming carbon net zero and fully climate resilient by 2030*”²³. The effects of changing climate are likely to bring numerous challenges to Lewes District.
- 3.23 The combination of terrain, soil, riverine and coastal landscapes mean that the relationship with water in the district is critically important. Extreme flood events of November 1960 and October 2000 have ensured that this is a key focus area for the district describing in the local Plan for the need for “*a vision to ensure that the increased frequency and severity of flood events to the district will have been reduced*”²³.

¹⁸ UNESCO (2014) *Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere Reserve*, United Kingdom. [online] Available at:

<https://en.unesco.org/biosphere/eu-na/brighton-lewes-downs#:~:text=The%20Brighton%20%26%20Lewes%20Downs%20Biosphere,River%20Ouse%20in%20the%20east>

¹⁹ Sussex Wildlife Trust (2019) *Seaford Head Nature Reserve*. [online] Available at:

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/visit/seaford-head>

²⁰ World Weather Online (2022) *Peacehaven Annual Weather Averages*. [online] Available at:

<https://www.worldweatheronline.com/peacehaven-weather-averages/east-sussex/gb.aspx>

²¹ Office for National Statistics (2022) *Climate change insights, families and households, UK: August 2022*. [online] Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/climatechangeinsightsuk/august2022#:~:text=Long%2Dterm%20trends&text=Annual%20mean%20temperatures%20of%209.3,showing%20an%20increased%20average%20rainfall>

²² Lewes District Council (2019) *Minutes of meeting held in Council Chamber at County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes on 15 July 2019 at 6.00 pm*. [online] Available at: <https://democracy.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/documents/g2965/Printed%20minutes%2015th-Jul-2019%2018.00%20Lewes%20District%20Council%20Full%20Council.pdf?T=1>

²³ Lewes District Council (2021) *Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2021*. [online] Available at: https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/_resources/assets/inline/full/0/310115.pdf

- 3.24 Seaford and Newhaven in the southern part of the study area are at risk of flooding from the River Ouse and its tributaries, or inundation from the sea²³ in extreme weather events such as the storm and tidal surge experienced in Newhaven in December 2013²⁴. Lewes District Council manages coastal protection with defence works focusing around Saltdean and Peacehaven²⁵.

Cultural and Social Influences

Land Use

- 3.25 The northern part of the study area lies within the Low Weald landscape. This area largely consists of agricultural land use, both arable and pasture, and many densely wooded areas. There are also various farmsteads interspersed across the landscape and some urbanising features. These include residential development and associated infrastructure within predominantly small settlements and a couple of medium-sized settlements, including Ringmer and Newick. There is also a Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) on the western edge of the settlement of Newick, which is to mitigate housing development¹⁴.
- 3.26 Ditchling Common Country Park lies within the northern part of the study area just east of Burgess Hill. Within the northern part there are also numerous areas of Local Green Spaces, which are typically important for both people and wildlife. These are predominantly designated at Neighbourhood Plan level surrounding settlement areas.
- 3.27 The northern part of the study area also includes other land uses, including Balcombe Chalk Pit near the settlement of Glynde, a golf club, campsites and sewage works. Within the northern part, there are also numerous solar farms which largely follow and fit within existing field boundaries and are often in close proximity to existing mature vegetation. Several electricity transmission lines run across the northern part, including partly alongside the dismantled railway line from near to Newick in the north to Barcombe in the south. The lines are often within close proximity to mature woodland vegetation but pass through the open landscape in places.
- 3.28 The western part of the study area largely consists of urban fringe land use, including playing fields, car parking and sports pitches. No electricity transmission lines run through the western part.
- 3.29 The southern part of the study area consists largely of urban and urban fringe land use, associated with the settlements of Newhaven, Peacehaven, Seaford and Saltdean. This includes predominantly residential properties and associated infrastructure, including Newhaven Industrial Park. A small section of electricity transmission line extends from the South Downs National Park into the southern part in the settlement of Newhaven, where there are several areas of Local Green Spaces.

Movement and Access

- 3.30 With reference to **Figure 10: Movement and Settlement Patterns** the PRoW network across the study area includes public footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways. There are middle-distance recreational routes, including the Vanguard Way and Sussex Ouse Valley Way which cross the southern part of the study area and the Sussex Ouse Valley Way and Sussex Border Path which cross the northern part of the study area. There are only permissive routes across the western part of the study area.
- 3.31 Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Access Land is limited in the northern part of the study area, but there is a considerable area near to the settlements of Newick, North Chailey and Wivelsfield Green. This area comprises several Commons, including Red House Common, Lane End Common, Memorial Common, Chailey Common and Pound Common, which are protected for heathland vegetation. There is an area of CRoW Access Land on the south-western edge of Peacehaven within the southern part of the study area. There is no CRoW Access Land within the western part of the study area.
- 3.32 National Cycle Network route 2 crosses the southern part of the study area on the edges of the settlements of Newhaven and Seaford and continues further west adjacent to the coast. National Cycle Network route 2 continues north through the South Downs National Park and east adjacent to Polegate.

²⁴ BBC News (2013) *Floods in Kent and Sussex: People return home*. [online] Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-25253695>

²⁵ Lewes and Eastbourne Councils (2016) *Coast management and protection*. [online] Available at: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/about-the-councils/coast-management-and-protection/>

National Cycle Network route 90 crosses into the western edge of the northern part of the study area and also within the western part of the study area adjacent to the A27.

- 3.33 There are several A-roads which cross the northern part of the study area, including the A272 extending towards Haywards Heaths to the west and the A275 and A26 towards Lewes within the South Downs National Park. The A27 crosses adjacent to the north-eastern section of the northern part of the study area and continues west through the South Downs National Park through to the western part of the study area. The A259 and A26 cross through the southern part of the study area. There are several B-roads which cross parts of the study area. There are also numerous minor roads through the landscape, with a higher proportion in the southern part of the district, relating to a greater concentration of settlements.
- 3.34 Ancient drove roads extend north to south across the northern part of the district and extend into the South Downs National Park and High Weald AONB. The drove roads are historic routes associated with the movement of livestock. The drove roads include the A275, part of the A26, Spithurst Road and B2112. The siting of settlements adjacent to the drove roads reflects the historic association between the movement of livestock and communities.
- 3.35 The East Coastway railway line extends from Burgess Hill, through the northern part of the study area of Lewes. It also passes through the northern part of the study area towards Polegate, the western part of the study area towards Brighton and Newhaven in the southern part of the study area, where it terminates in Seaford.

Settlement

- 3.36 With reference to **Figure 10: Movement and Settlement Patterns**, the northern part of the study area includes two rural service centres including Ringmer on the southern edge and Newick on the northern edge. The remaining settlements within the northern part of the study area vary in size and form, between linear settlements such as the local village of South Chailey, and those which are more nucleated in character, such as the service village of Barcombe Cross.
- 3.37 There is considerable amount of roadside ribbon development. This includes adjacent to A-roads including the A26 and minor roads. This pattern tends to increase the perception of urban development within the landscape as it extends residential land uses beyond more defined settlement boundaries. There are also pockets of dispersed development in the landscape, predominantly consisting of farmsteads.
- 3.38 The western part of the study area comprises the urbanised eastern edge of Falmer, which is approximately 8km to the north-east of Brighton which is a primary regional centre. The southern part of the study area comprises the district centres of Newhaven, Peacehaven, Seaford and part of Saltdean. These settlements are nucleated in form and are surrounded in places by other land uses, including a sewage works on the northern edge of Peacehaven. There is a small physical and visual connection between the settlements as they extend along the coastline.

Historic Landscape Character

- 3.39 In August 2010 the Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation²⁶ was published by West Sussex County Council, East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove Unitary Authority and English Heritage. This document splits the landscape into Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation (SHLC) Types and Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation Sub-Types.
- 3.40 With reference to **Figure 11: Historic Landscape Character** the northern part of the study area consists of a range of SHLC Types, the majority of which being Enclosed Agriculture. This includes the Amalgamated Fields SHLC Sub-Type, in which field amalgamation has occurred to meet modern agricultural practices.
- 3.41 The typically ancient parts and more modern parts of this landscape are heavily dispersed amongst the northern part of the study area, however further east near to Glynde this landscape is predominantly modern. Other SHLC Types include Woodland and Forestry, Settlement, Communications, Orchards Horticulture and Aquaculture and Recreation.

²⁶ West Sussex County Council. East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove Unitary Authority and English Heritage (2010) *Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation*. [online] Available at: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/landscape-and-environment/sussex-historic-landscape-characterisation/>

- 3.42 The dominant SHLC Type within the southern part of the study area is Settlement, the majority of which being of residential extension SHLC Sub-Type typically of Victorian to modern. The part also includes a wide range of other SHLC Types, typical of an urban and urban fringe area, including Enclosed Agriculture, Industry, Communications, Recreation, Woodland and Forestry and Orchards Horticulture and Aquaculture.
- 3.43 The western part of the study area on the edge of the settlement of Falmer, consists of Recreation SHLC Type, with the SHLC Sub-Type of Sports, Communications SHLC Type, with the Sub-Type of Road Transport, and Settlement SHLC Type, with the SHLC Sub-Type of Historic Settlement Core. The period ranges from medieval to modern.

Cultural Heritage

- 3.44 With reference to **Figure 12: Cultural Heritage Designations** there are numerous listed buildings within the northern part of the study area, predominantly Grade II, but with some Grade II* and Grade I listed buildings. There are few scheduled monuments, one of which includes "*Medieval ringwork at Clay Hill*" near to Ringmer. Newick Park Grade II registered park and garden lies to the south of Newick, which has a public footpath running through. There are also several conservation areas, including at Chailey and Ringmer. The western part of the study area does not include listed buildings, scheduled monuments or registered parks and gardens. However, the western part does include part of a conservation area.
- 3.45 There are numerous listed buildings within the settlements in the southern part of the study area, predominantly Grade II. There are several Grade II* listed buildings, including within the settlement areas of South Highton and Newhaven. There are several scheduled monuments in the urban fringe areas between the dense settlements, including bowl barrows, which are mounds used to cover a tomb, between the settlements of Peacehaven and Saltdean and "*Newhaven military fort and lunette battery*" to the south of Newhaven. The southern part also includes conservation areas within the various settlement areas. The western edge of the Sussex Heritage Coast lies adjacent to the eastern edge of the southern part.

Perceptual and Aesthetic Influences

Sight

- 3.46 From the South Downs National Park and High Weald AONB, views across the Low Weald landscape are a characteristic feature from numerous locations on relatively higher ground surrounding the study area.
- 3.47 Key views highlighted in the South Downs National Park View Characterisation and Analysis study²⁷ most relevant to the study area are:
- Blackcap – views north across the Low Weald landscape.
 - Ditchling Beacon – views north across the Low Weald landscape.
 - Mount Calburn – views to north across the Ouse Valley.
 - Firle Beacon – views north across the Low Weald landscape.
 - Nore Down above Piddinghoe – views of the Ouse Valley.
 - Telscombe Tye – panoramic views near to Saltdean.

Tranquillity

- 3.48 In 2007, The Countryside Charity (CPRE) mapped England's tranquillity from most tranquil to least tranquil²⁸. With reference to **Figure 13: The Countryside Charity Tranquillity Mapping**, the northern part of the study area predominantly lies within the central to most tranquil parts of the spectrum. There are some pockets within the least tranquil part of the spectrum, including near to the settlements of

²⁷ South Downs National Park Authority (2015) *South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis*. [online] Available at: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Viewshed-Study-Report.pdf>

²⁸ The Countryside Charity (2007) *Tranquillity Map: England*. [online] Available at: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/tranquillity-map-england/>

Ringmer and Chailey. The western and southern parts of the study area lie within the least tranquil part of the spectrum due to their relatively urban context and surroundings.

- 3.49 “*Tranquil and unspoilt places*” is one of the Special Qualities of the South Downs National Park²⁹. The High Weald AONB also notes that it is celebrated for its tranquillity, as set out within the Management Plan³⁰. Therefore, the study area adjacent to such landscapes is influenced by the tranquillity of the neighbouring designated landscapes.

Dark Skies

- 3.50 In 2016, CPRE mapped England’s light pollution and dark skies³¹. With reference to **Figure 14: The Countryside Charity Dark Skies Mapping**, this illustrates the level of radiance (night lights) shining up into the night sky, with corresponding bands of colour to demarcate the transition between the darkest and brightest skies.
- 3.51 The northern part of the study area predominantly lies within the low part of the spectrum, which indicates relatively darker skies. There are some small pockets of medium levels of radiance, including near to the settlement of Ringmer and the outskirts of Burgess Hill. The western and southern parts of the study area lie within the medium to high levels of radiance due to their relatively urban context and surroundings, thereby reflecting the brighter night skies.
- 3.52 Dark skies are noted within the Special Qualities of the South Downs National Park²⁹ and that the South Downs National Park is recognised as an International Dark Sky Reserve. The High Weald AONB Management Plan³⁰ also states that the intrinsically dark landscapes within the AONB. Therefore, the study area adjacent to such landscapes is influenced by the dark skies of the neighbouring designated landscapes.

²⁹ South Downs National Park Authority. (2015) *South Downs National Park Special Qualities*. [online] Available at: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SDNP-Special-Qualities.pdf>

³⁰ High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership (2019) *The High Weald AONB Management Plan 2019-2024*. [online] Available at: <https://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/high-weald-aonb-management-plan-documents/2291-high-weald-managment-plan-4th-edition-2019-2024/file.html>

³¹ The Countryside Charity (2016) *England’s Light Pollution and Dark Skies*. [online] Available at: <https://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/maps/>

4. Lewes District Landscape Character Types and Areas

- 4.1 The following section outlines the distinct Landscape Character Types (LCT) and Landscape Character Areas (LCA) identified as part of this Landscape Character Assessment within the study area. The Landscape Character Types are illustrated on **Figure 15: Lewes Landscape Character Types** and the Landscape Character Areas are illustrated on **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**.
- 4.2 Refer to **Figure 17: Plate Locations** for mapping illustrating where the photographs were taken to support the Landscape Character Area text within this Landscape Character Assessment.

Landscape Character Type A: Downland Recreational

4.3 With reference to **Figure 15: Lewes Landscape Character Types**, LCT A: Downland Recreational covers land in the western part of the study area at the eastern edge of Falmer. The LCT consists of the following LCA:

- LCA A1: Falmer Playing Fields
- LCA A2: Falmer Arena

Landscape Character Area A1: Falmer Playing Fields

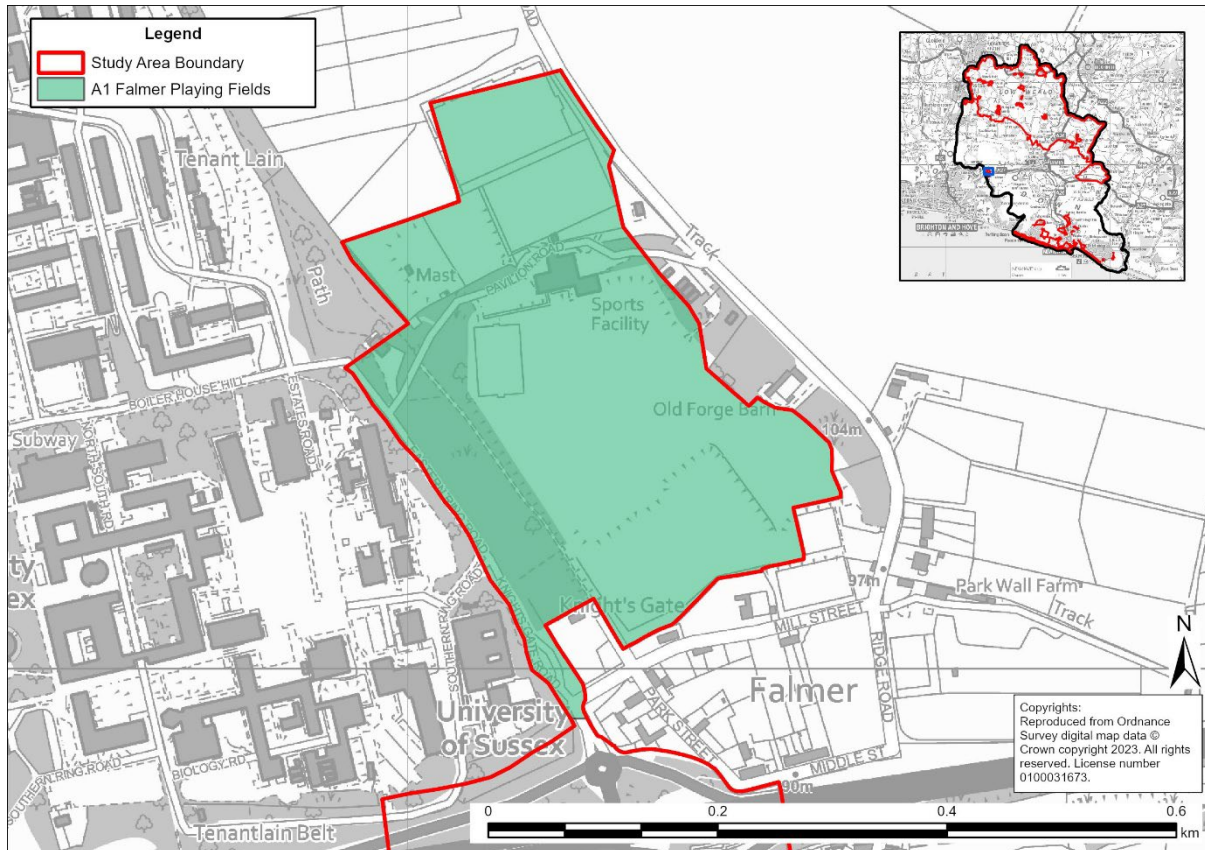


Plate 2: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area A1 in a fill



Plate 3: View of sports pitches and mature woodland vegetation in Landscape Character Area A1



Plate 4: View of sports pitches, mature woodland vegetation and brick buildings in Landscape Character Area A1

Location and Boundaries

- 4.4 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area A1 lies within the western part of the study area, at the edge of the district. It covers a small area of land between Ridge Road and Eastern Ring Road / Knights Gate Road and is crossed by a minor road named Pavilion Road.
- 4.5 The Landscape Character Area is bordered by the Falmer Arena Landscape Character Area (A2) to the south and the South Downs National Park, which extends to the north, east and south.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.6 The bedrock geology of the Landscape Character Area comprises clay, silt and sand. The soils are predominantly slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.
- 4.7 The Landscape Character Area consists of gently undulating landform and lies between approximately +90m AOD to +110m AOD. It comprises mature vegetation, including ancient woodland, which results in high levels of enclosure and contributes to the established green infrastructure network.

- 4.8 Land use includes a recreational sports complex with several sports pitches. The Landscape Character Area also comprises various two-storey brick buildings associated with recreational and educational uses. The Landscape Character Area represents a transitional landscape between the open South Downs National Park to the east and dense urban settlement edge of Falmer and Brighton to the west.
- 4.9 Overall, the Landscape Character Area exhibits a low level of tranquillity due to the dominance of urban land use and influence of movement and noise from the various roads passing nearby, notably the A27 dual carriageway.

Key Characteristics

- The landform is gently undulating and lies between approximately +90m AOD to +110m AOD.
- Mature, intact tree and woodland vegetation, resulting in high levels of enclosure with limited intervisibility with the wider, open landscape of the South Downs National Park to the east. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual setting of the South Downs National Park.
- Ancient woodland along the eastern edge.
- The land cover generally comprises grass pitches and Astroturf.
- Land use includes a recreational and educational sports complex with several two-storey brick buildings with wooden fencing and tall floodlighting, which contributes to the artificial and urban character.
- Recreational use is high including sports pitches and a permissive footpath along the western edge.
- Loud road noise and movement due to the A27 dual carriageway and associated slip roads for the Falmer junction passing immediately to the south, which results in a low tranquillity and is a highly urbanising feature.

Forces for Change

- Further urban expansion to the east of Falmer around the boundaries of the Landscape Character Area, potentially degrading existing established green infrastructure networks and existing biodiversity levels.
- Increasing traffic levels, resulting in the existing road network becoming a greater audible and visual detracting feature.
- Climate change increasing extreme weather events, such as heat stress relating to the landscape, potentially resulting in the alteration of open grass field pitches to further Astroturf or increased requirements for irrigation to maintain the grass pitches.
- Improvements to the PRoW network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers and increased recreational pressures from visitors.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Retain and enhance the high levels of recreational use.
- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.
- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.

Development Guidelines

- Aim to retain open grass field pitches rather than creation of further Astroturf.
- Protect and retain existing vegetation across the Landscape Character Area, including ancient woodland.
- Retain open field enclosures in the northern part, currently used as sports pitches, as this characterises the urban fringe landscape, between dense urban settlement to the west and the relatively open South Downs National Park to the east.
- Avoid any further impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.

Landscape Character Area A2: Falmer Arena

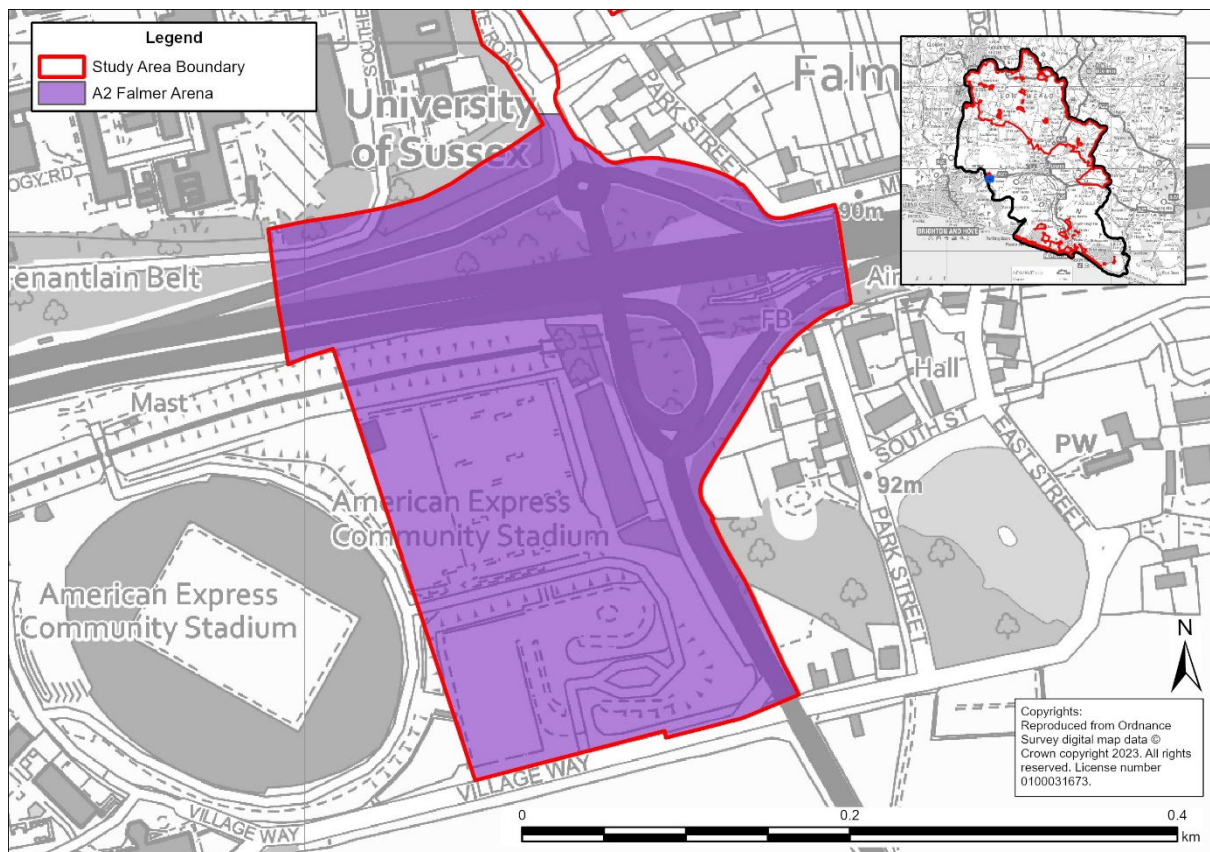


Plate 5: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area A2 in a fill



Plate 6: View of A27 dual carriageway and mature woodland vegetation in Landscape Character Area A2



Plate 7: View of car parking with tall floodlighting and mature woodland vegetation in Landscape Character Area A2

Location and Boundaries

- 4.10 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area A2 lies within the western part of the study area, at the edge of the district. It covers a small area of land between Knights Gate Road and Village Way and is crossed by the A27 dual carriageway, B2123 and associated slip roads for the Falmer junction. The Amex Stadium lies immediately adjacent to the west.
- 4.11 The Landscape Character Area is bordered by the Falmer Playing Fields Landscape Character Area (A1) to the north and South Downs National Park, which extends to the east and south.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.12 The bedrock geology of the Landscape Character Area comprises a mixture of clay, silt and sand in the eastern part and chalk in the western part. The soils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage in the eastern part and shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone in the western part.
- 4.13 The Landscape Character Area consists of gently undulating landform and lies between approximately +80m AOD to +90m AOD. It comprises mature vegetation, which results in high levels of enclosure and contributes to the established green infrastructure network.
- 4.14 Land use includes road infrastructure and extensive areas of hardstanding used for parking. The Landscape Character Area is heavily influenced by detracting and urbanising features, including floodlighting and the adjacent sports stadium.
- 4.15 Overall, the Landscape Character Area exhibits a low level of tranquillity due to the dominance of urban land use and influence of movement and noise from the various roads passing through, notably the A27 dual carriageway.

Key Characteristics

- The landform is gently undulating and lies between approximately +80m AOD to +90m AOD.
- Mature, intact tree and woodland vegetation, resulting in high levels of enclosure with limited intervisibility with the wider, open landscape of the South Downs National Park to the east. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual setting of the South Downs National Park.
- The land cover generally comprises hard standing associated with car parking.
- Land use comprises car parking with metal fencing and tall floodlighting, which contributes to the artificial and urban character.
- Recreational use includes the National Cycle Network route 90 passing along the northern edge of part of the local PRow network along the southern edge.

- The sports stadium immediately adjacent to the west of the Landscape Character Area has a highly urbanising influence on the southern part and is distinctive in the local landscape due to its white colouring against a dark, wooded backdrop.
- Loud road noise and movement due to the A27 dual carriageway and associated slip roads for the Falmer junction passing through, which results in a low tranquillity and is a highly urbanising feature.

Forces for Change

- Further urban expansion to the east of Falmer around the boundaries of the Landscape Character Area, potentially degrading existing established green infrastructure networks and existing biodiversity levels.
- Increasing traffic levels, resulting in the existing road network becoming a greater audible and visual detracting feature.
- Climate change increasing extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape.
- Improvements to the PRoW network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers and increased recreational pressures from visitors.

Land Management Guidelines

- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park. This could include new planting where appropriate.
- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.

Development Guidelines

- Protect and retain existing vegetation across the Landscape Character Area.
- Avoid any further impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.

Landscape Character Type B: Downland Fringe

4.16 With reference to **Figure 15: Lewes Landscape Character Types**, LCT B: Downland Fringe covers land in the southern part of the study area, bordering settlements. The LCT consists of the following LCA:

- LCA B1: Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford and Saltdean Downland
- LCA B2: Peacehaven Residential

Landscape Character Area B1: Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford and Saltdean Downland

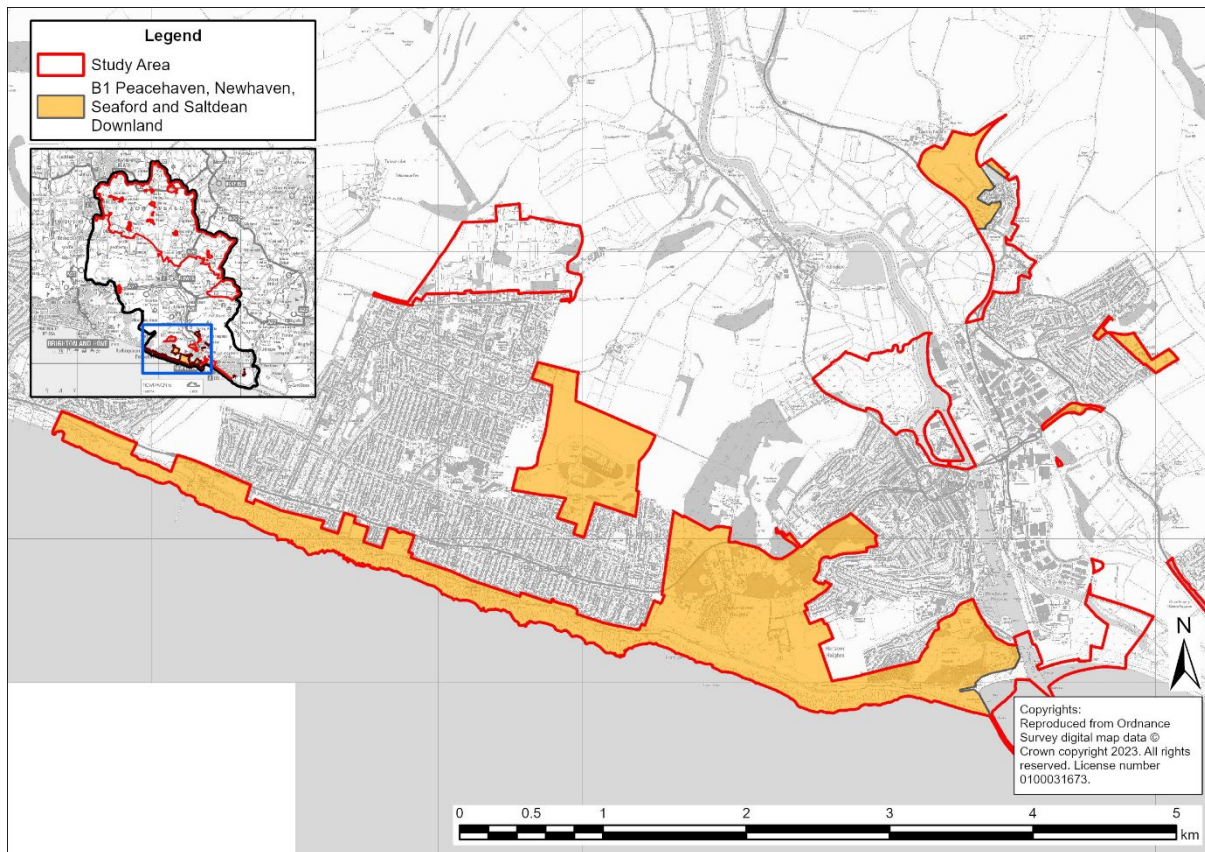


Plate 8: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area B1 in a fill



Plate 9: View of agricultural land and the existing settlement edge in Landscape Character Area B1



Plate 10: View of chalk cliffs and the coastal landscape in Landscape Character Area B1

Location and Boundaries

- 4.17 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area B1 comprises several areas of land all within the southern part of the district. These areas surround Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford and Saltdean and border the English Channel to the south.
- 4.18 The Landscape Character lies adjacent to other Landscape Character Areas in places, namely the Newhaven and Seaford Ouse Catchment (E3) and South Heighton Ouse Catchment (E4), as well as the South Downs National Park, which extends further to the north.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.19 The bedrock geology consists of a mix of clay, silt and sand and chalk. Also, a mix of soil types, including slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils, freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils and shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone.
- 4.20 The Landscape Character Area represents an undulating landscape and lies between approximately +30m and +90m AOD. There are some localised steep rises in landform, including at Fort Newhaven in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area and Tarring Neville in the northern part.
- 4.21 The Landscape Character Area comprises typically arable agricultural land as well as other land uses including a sewage works. There is varied vegetation cover, including more open areas and those with mature vegetation often with evidence of wind impact. Distinctive elements include white chalk cliffs, as well as rich habitats such as species-rich chalk grassland.
- 4.22 Overall, the Landscape Character Area has a high influence from the adjacent settlement areas and urbanising features with localised areas of high tranquillity where panoramic views are available towards the South Downs National Park immediately to the north and south towards wind turbines out to sea. The Landscape Character Area represents a transitional landscape between the South Downs National Park, settlement edges and the coastline. This is a varied landscape, including differing geology, levels of enclosure, land uses and vegetation cover.

Key Characteristics

- Undulating landform, generally between approximately +30m and +90m AOD. Some localised high points with relatively steeper inclines, including within the coastal landscape between Peacehaven and Newhaven at Fort Newhaven.
- Distinctive white chalk cliffs along the coastline and in the northern part, south of Tarring Neville.
- Varied vegetation cover, including non-vegetated field boundaries in the more open parts and mature, intact hedgerows, trees and scrub elsewhere.
- Windswept trees and hedgerows across the Landscape Character Area are a notable indicator of the landscape setting.
- Land use includes arable agricultural land with some pasture in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area, as well as other land uses including a sewage works.
- Mixture of planned, enclosed agricultural land of pre-modern form and amalgamated, enclosed agricultural land of modern form and coastal and intertidal rough ground of Victorian to modern form.
- Partially within the Brighton and Newhaven Cliffs SSSI, which includes some rare plants and distinctive wildflower chalk grassland near to the coastline.
- Castle Hill, Newhaven LNR in the southern part with maritime grassland, gorse and scrub, which are important bird habitats.
- Highly influenced by built form on settlement edges and urbanising uses of Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford and Saltdean, which comprises a mixture of older and newer, prominent built residential development.
- Metal and wooden fencing in parts, including surrounding the existing sewage works north of Peacehaven and along the coastline, which increases the urbanising influence.
- Recreational access, including a well-used local PRoW network, CRoW Access Land, Centenary Park, National Cycle Network route 2, the England Coast Path and Coastal Margin Access Land.
- Hard engineered coastal defences visible, which creates a visually detracting feature.
- Heritage associations, including the 17th century listed building south-west of Peacehaven and the Bowl Barrow on Peacehaven Heights scheduled monument.
- Panoramic views available towards the rising and undulating landform of the South Downs National Park immediately to the north and south towards wind turbines out to sea, creating a sense of openness and tranquillity despite proximity to settlement edges. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual setting of the South Downs National Park.
- Forms the key physical separation between settlements.

Forces for Change

- Development encroaching into areas of open space between settlement areas, which provides a setting to the South Downs National Park and separate sense of settlement identity.
- Tourism and recreational pressure along the coastline, potentially reducing biodiversity levels.
- Climate change increasing extreme weather events, such as flooding due to increased rainfall patterns, heat stress relating to the landscape and further erosion to the coastline.
- Continuing sea defences which may cause the southern coastal edge to have a higher urban influence.
- Increased agricultural pressure, potentially causing degradation of hedgerows and run-off into watercourses.
- Improvements to the PRoW network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Support the Ouse Valley Climate Action goals, including carbon capture with new tree planting and wildlife habitats, creating water habitats and encourage greener travel initiatives.
- Management of recreational and tourism pressures along the coastline to ensure that existing biodiversity levels and species-rich habitats are retained and enhanced, including chalk grassland and wildflower vegetation cover.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local ProW network.
- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.
- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.

Development Guidelines

- General presumption against development due to the need to avoid coalescence of settlements and retain the intervening open character of the landscape. Development should be focused adjacent to settlement edges.
- Reinforce settlement boundaries with new native planting to reduce the visual impact and perception of settlements.
- Where permitted, development should adhere to the most recent guidance set out within the adjacent Marine Management Organisation (MMO) South Inshore Marine Plan Area.
- Avoid metal fencing and close board fencing on boundaries with sensitive landscapes as part of boundary treatments as this increases the urbanising influence.
- Avoid any adverse impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance and noting the importance of views from Nore Down and Telscombe Tye.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.
- Reinstatement of historic field boundaries where they have been lost to amalgamation.

Landscape Character Area B2: Peacehaven Residential

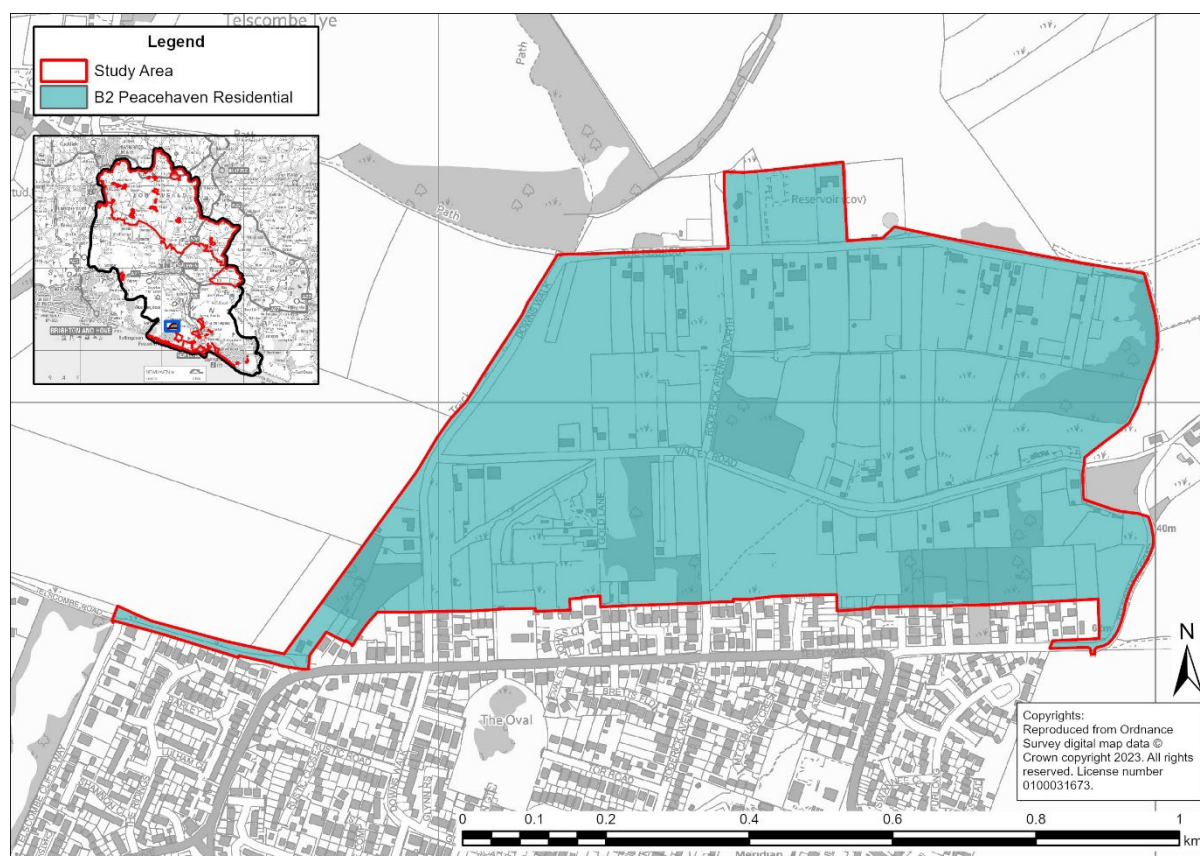


Plate 11: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area B2 in a fill



Plate 12: View of rising landform, residential dwellings and mature tree cover in Landscape Character Area B2



Plate 13: View of rising landform and electricity infrastructure in Landscape Character Area B2

Location and Boundaries

- 4.23 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area B2 comprises an area of land within the southern part of the district. The area lies within the northern edge of the settlement of Peacehaven, between The Lookout and Telscombe Road.
- 4.24 The Landscape Character Area borders the South Downs National Park, which extends further to the north.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.25 The bedrock geology consists predominantly of chalk. The soil types mainly comprise shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone.
- 4.26 The Landscape Character Area represents rising land toward the South Downs National Park to the north. The landform lies between approximately +70m AOD and +85m AOD.
- 4.27 The Landscape Character Area comprises predominantly pastoral agricultural land, with an area of arable agricultural land in the western part set within residential land use. Vegetation cover largely consists of individual and pockets of mature trees as well as scrubland, which results in high levels of enclosure.
- 4.28 Overall, the Landscape Character Area has a high influence from residential development and urbanising features. High levels of enclosure generally but with some views towards the South Downs National Park from the higher parts of the Landscape Character Area. The Landscape Character Area represents a transitional landscape between the South Downs National Park and settlement edges along the coastline.

Key Characteristics

- Rising landform towards to the South Downs National Park immediately to the north, generally between approximately +70m AOD and +85m AOD.
- Vegetation cover includes individual and pockets of mature trees, which results in high levels of enclosure, as well as scrubland and hedgerow in variable condition.
- Land use includes residential dwellings with predominantly pastoral agricultural land, with an area of arable agricultural land in the western part.
- Mixture of planned, enclosed agricultural land of pre-modern form and Victorian to modern residential extension.
- Two-storey rendered residential properties interspersed within the agricultural landform with a relatively lower density to remainder of Peacehaven immediately to the south.
- Metal and wooden fencing in parts and overhead wires are prominent, which are all detracting features.
- Recreational access includes the local PRoW network on the northern and southern boundaries and northern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Views available towards the South Downs National Park and towards the coastline from the higher parts of the Landscape Character Area in the northern part, however generally high levels of enclosure. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual setting of the South Downs National Park.

Forces for Change

- Higher density of development within the Landscape Character Area as an extension of this context of Peacehaven immediately to the south, in an area which provides a setting to the South Downs National Park.
- Climate change increasing extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape.
- Increased agricultural pressure with further degradation of hedgerows.
- Improvements to the PRoW network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Support the Ouse Valley Climate Action goals, including carbon capture with new tree planting and wildlife habitats, creating water habitats and encourage greener travel initiatives.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local PRoW network.
- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.
- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.

Development Guidelines

- Retain interspersed development pattern as the Landscape Character Area represents a transitional landscape between the South Downs National Park downland and coastal settlement area.
- Avoid metal fencing and close board fencing on boundaries with sensitive landscapes as part of boundary treatments as this increases the urbanising influence.
- Avoid any adverse impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.

Landscape Character Type C: Western Low Weald

4.29 With reference to **Figure 15: Lewes Landscape Character Types**, LCT C: Western Low Weald covers most of the northern part of the study area. The LCT consists of the following LCA:

- LCA C1: Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald
- LCA C2: Barcombe, Plumpton and Cooksbridge Western Low Weald
- LCA C3: Ditchling Common Western Low Weald

Landscape Character Area C1: Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald

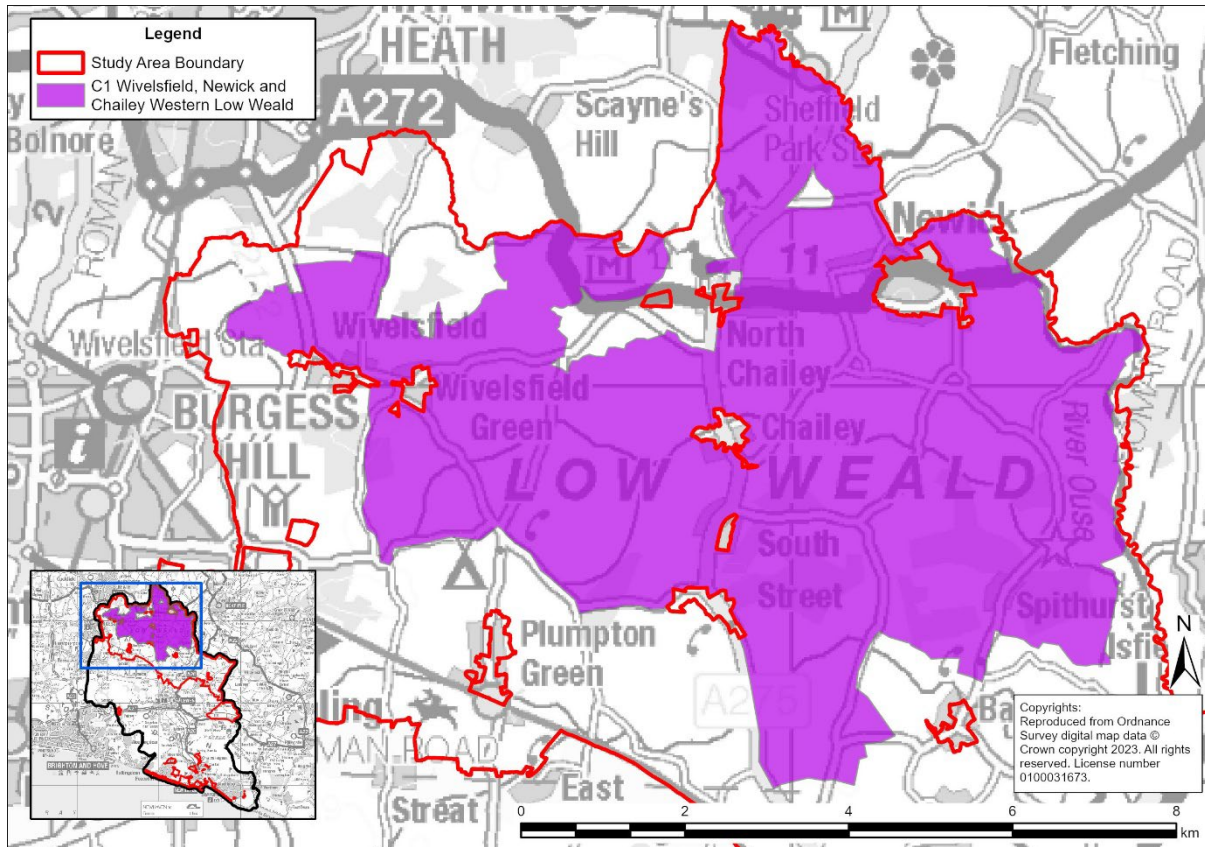


Plate 14: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area C1 in a fill



Plate 15: View of pond and mature tree vegetation in in Landscape Character Area C1



Plate 16: View of tree-lined field enclosure in Landscape Character Area C1



Plate 17: View of Grade II* listed St Peter's Church, Chailey in Landscape Character Area C1



Plate 18: View of woodland blocks and the South Downs National Park in the distance from elevated ground in Landscape Character Area C1

Location and Boundaries

- 4.30 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area C1 comprises an area of land within the northern part of the district. The Landscape Character Area lies to the south-west of the High Weald AONB.
- 4.31 The Landscape Character Area is bordered by the district boundary to the north as well as various other Landscape Character Areas, namely Ditchling Common Western Low Weald (C3), Lewes Ouse

Catchment (E2), Plumpton Scarp Foothlope (F1), Barcombe, Plumpton and Cooksbridge Western Low Weald (C2), Chailey Common Heathland (G1) and Wivelsfield Ouse Catchment (E1).

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.32 The bedrock geology consists of largely of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. The soils in the northern part consist predominantly of slightly acid loamy, clayey soils with impeded drainage, as well as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils partially on the eastern edge. The soils in the southern part consist of slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acidic but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.
- 4.33 The Landscape Character Area covers undulating landform situated between approximately +10m AOD to +65m AOD, with localised high points offering extensive views and lower landform typically associated with the River Ouse and its tributaries.
- 4.34 Vegetation cover includes typically medium to large scale woodland blocks, as well as tree-lined field enclosures, hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Land use is a mixture of pasture and arable agricultural use overall consisting of small to medium-scale, irregular fields. Overall, there is generally an enclosed character to the Landscape Character Area due to the density of the vegetation. There is less enclosed character across higher ground within the Landscape Character Area, in combination with less vegetation cover, offering views towards the High Weald AONB to the north and South Downs National Park to the south.
- 4.35 The settlement pattern is characterised by edges of settlement, small-scale linear and nucleated settlements, linear ribbon development along the winding road network, notably along the A275 north to south route, and farmsteads. Recreational access includes an extensive PRoW network, including the Sussex Border Path and Sussex Ouse Valley Way recreational routes, as well as CRoW Access Land.
- 4.36 Overall, beyond the settlements and road networks, the Landscape Character Area exhibits a highly rural and tranquil character due to the land use and the enclosure from mature vegetation, with localised references to villages via church towers.

Key Characteristics

- Undulating landform between approximately +10m AOD to +65m AOD. Localised high points including to the south-east of North Chailey, offering extensive views of the surrounding landscape and distinctive views towards Grade II* listed St Peter's Church in Chailey to the south. Falls in landform generally occur where tributaries from the River Ouse meander through the landscape, including the Pellingford Brook in the northern part, often denoted by mature vegetation including willow in a distinctive silver colour.
- The course of the River Ouse forms the north-eastern boundary of the Landscape Character Area, with flowing water audible from beyond the riverbanks when in proximity to the river, such that in combination with riparian vegetation including willow and alder, there is the perception of the river. Various other hydrological features across the Landscape Character Area, including small to medium sized ponds, weirs and springs off the Longford Stream at Newick Park.
- Vegetation cover consists of varied sizes of woodland blocks, typically medium to large-scale, which creates a sense of enclosure as long-distance views towards rising landform outside the study area are restricted or channelled. Waspbourne Wood is a notable for its extent across the Landscape Character Areas.
- Vegetation cover also includes tree-lined field enclosures, some hedgerows and hedgerow trees in varied condition. Ancient woodland scattered across the Landscape Character Area.
- Fields are generally small to medium-scale and irregular, notably small-scale surrounding pockets of development; many of which are formed from woodland clearance and often bounded by remnant woodland strips known as shaws creates a well-established green infrastructure network.
- Mixture of assart, enclosed agricultural land of ancient form, amalgamated, enclosed agricultural land of modern form and planned, enclosed agricultural land of pre-modern form.
- Land use includes a mixture of arable and pasture agricultural use.
- Residential development consists of the edge of settlement areas include Newick, Wivelsfield Green and South Chailey, as well as two-storey dwellings in a linear and ribbon pattern along the winding road network. Smaller settlement areas include Chailey and Spithurst, which are nucleated and linear settlement patterns respectively.

- Settlement areas and linear, ribbon development are typically located along the ancient drove road network, notably the A275 which continues into the High Weald AONB to the north, Spithurst Road and the A272.
- Residential dwellings typically built of brick, with some other materials including flint walling within Chailey.
- Farmsteads interspersed in the landscape, typically with large-scale buildings.
- Sheffield Park Station and associated railway line and business park in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area, create urbanising features in the local landscape due to some containment by mature vegetation.
- The southern part of the Chailey Common SSSI and LNR extends into the Landscape Character Area.
- Extensive recreational access provided by the PRoW network, including the Sussex Border Path and Sussex Ouse Valley Way recreational routes and including routes through and adjacent to farmsteads through the landscape. Various pockets of CRoW Access Land, including to the north of Newick and north-east of South Chailey.
- Chailey Link Walk promoted by local community which is a way-marked circular walk linking North and South Chailey.
- Heritage associations include Theobalds Bridleway which is an ancient route and a patchwork of medieval assart fields and hedgerow boundaries. Various listed buildings, including Grade II* St Peter and St John The Baptist Church to the north-west of Wivelsfield, and a scheduled monument at Waspbourne Farm in the northern part. Registered parks and gardens at Newick Park.
- Associations with designed landscapes surrounding large residential estates, including a conifer tree-lined avenue near to Lunces Hall in the western part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Electricity pylons and overhead lines result in a detracting feature in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area with a widespread urbanising influence.
- Located within the edge of the Ashdown Forest, designated as Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) protection zone in which new residential development would need to mitigate potential harm due to increased recreational pressure.
- Main transport routes are the A275 and A272, which create localised audible and visual detracting features.
- Beyond the detracting features, settlement areas, linear development and winding road network, there are areas exhibiting a highly rural and tranquil character due to containment from mature vegetation and woodland cover.
- Sounds associated with road and railway noise and tree movement in the wind.
- Intervisibility with the High Weald AONB to the north and the South Downs National Park to the south, from higher areas of the Landscape Character Area. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual, landscape and perceptual setting of the High Weald AONB.

Forces for Change

- Increased agricultural pressure, further degradation of hedgerows and run-off into watercourses.
- Expansion of settlement areas and further linear development along road networks, which would expand urbanising influences in the rural parts of the Landscape Character Area.
- Improvements to the PRoW network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers and increased recreational pressures from visitors.
- Climate change resulting in more extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing, heat stress relating to the landscape and pressure for increased renewable development.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the High Weald AONB, including maintain the well-established network of woodland and shaws.
- Retain and aim to restore historic pattern of field enclosures.
- Retain rural character away from development and roads.
- Retain pockets of views onto surrounding higher ground where available to retain the semi-enclosed character.

- Encourage local natural flood management initiatives in combination with ecological initiatives and requirements.
- Encourage improvements to vegetation including hedgerows in varying condition.
- Conserve and enhance recreational access, including locally valued routes and alongside hydrological features through landscape, including the Longford Stream and Pellingford Brook.
- Refer to relevant High Weald AONB management plan for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the High Weald AONB.

Development Guidelines

- Development should be avoided on higher ground and within the setting of the AONB. Development should be concentrated to existing settlement patterns.
- Protect and retain existing vegetation across the Landscape Character Area, including ancient woodland and on the edge of settlement areas.
- Avoid any adverse impact to the High Weald AONB's indicators of natural beauty, including the setting and intervisibility with the AONB, with reference to relevant guidance.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy and use of the existing woodland network for screening purposes where appropriate.
- Any new development should comply with relevant protection to Ashdown Forest.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the High Weald AONB.
- Avoid merging of existing settlement areas and consider the cumulative impact of additional development within the landscape.
- Retain and aim to restore historic pattern of field enclosures and settlement, particularly where they have been lost to amalgamation.

Landscape Character Area C2: Barcombe, Plumpton and Cooksbridge Western Low Weald

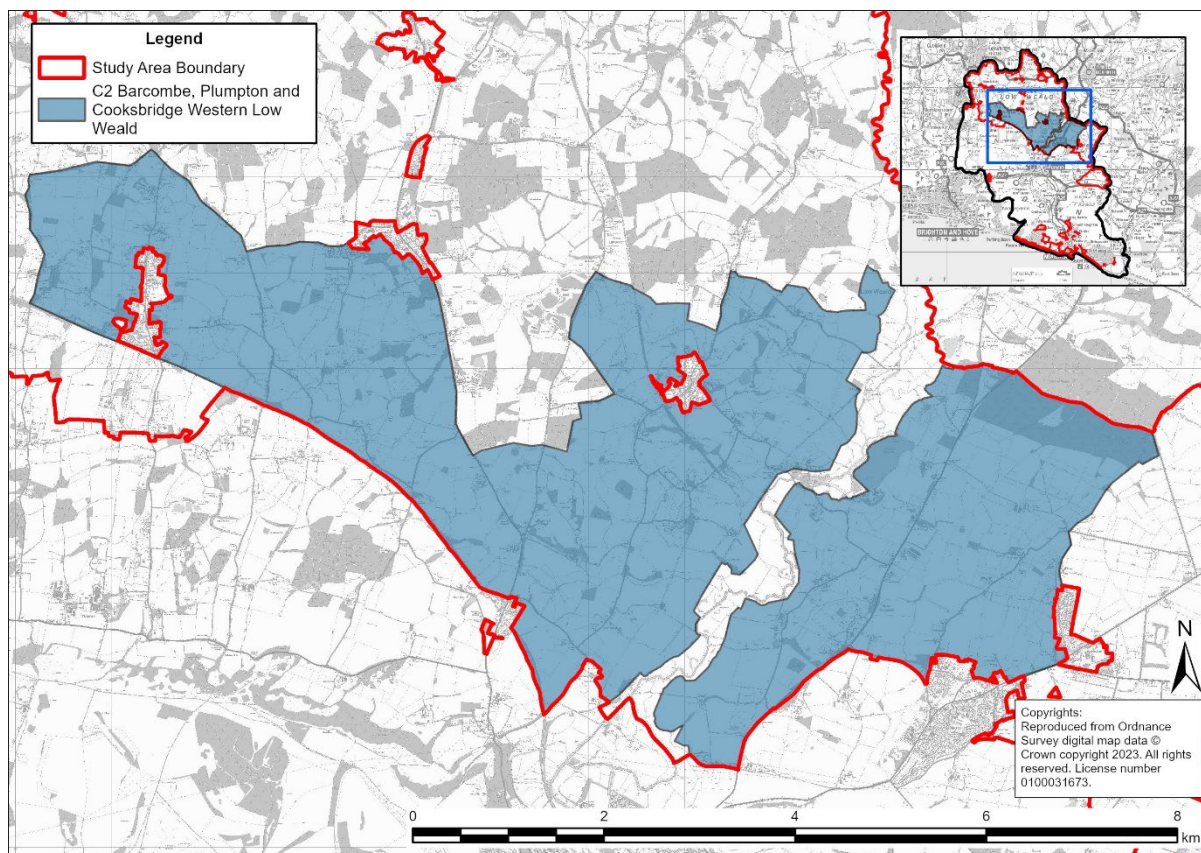


Plate 19: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area C2 in a fill



Plate 20: View of undulating landform and mature network of trees in Landscape Character Area C2



Plate 21: View of hedgerow and tree cover surrounding agricultural field enclosures in Landscape Character Area C2



Plate 22: View of agricultural land and the South Downs National Park in the background in Landscape Character Area C2

Location and Boundaries

4.37 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area C2 comprises two areas of land, both within the northern part of the district. The Landscape Character Area lies to the north of the South Downs National Park and is split by the course of the River Ouse and its floodplain.

- 4.38 The western part of the Landscape Character Area is bordered by the Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald (C1) to the north, Ditchling Common Western Low Weald (C3) to the west and Plumpton Scarp Foothills (F1), Lewes Ouse Catchment (E2) and South Downs National Park to the south. The eastern part of the Landscape Character Area is bordered by the Glynde and Ringmer Eastern Low Weald (D1) to the east, South Downs National Park to the south, Lewes Ouse Catchment (E2) to the west and the district boundary to the north.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.39 The bedrock geology consists of sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, limestone and silicate-claystone. The soils consist predominantly of slowly permeating, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils with a section of freely draining slightly acid loamy soils adjacent to the River Ouse floodplain.
- 4.40 The Landscape Character Area covers undulating landform situated between approximately +5m AOD to +60m AOD, forming the transition between the lower lying floodplains of Lewes Ouse Catchment and the South Downs National Park. There is localised steeper landform across the Landscape Character Area along the meandering tributaries of the River Ouse.
- 4.41 Vegetation cover consists of a mature network of trees including oak, hedgerows and hedgerow trees of variable quality and condition, which surround small to medium scale field enclosures. Land use is predominantly a mixture of pasture and arable agricultural use, including equestrian grazing. There is riparian vegetation often adjacent to the tributaries of the River Ouse. Overall, there is a semi-enclosed character to the landscape character areas due to the extent of woodland, except in the most elevated western part of the Landscape Character Area, where there is a more open character and subsequent intervisibility across the wider landscape, including the South Downs National Park.
- 4.42 The settlement pattern is characterised by two-storey residential development in a linear and ribbon arrangement adjacent to the road networks. There are also several smaller concentrated areas of residential development and commercial and industrial development interspersed in the agricultural landscape, including farmsteads. There are also urbanising influences from the A26, A275 and the railway line which cross the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.43 These settlement patterns are visible from within the Landscape Character Area, although intermittently due to the intervening mature vegetation and undulating landform. Recreational access includes an extensive PRoW network, including the Sussex Ouse Valley Way, and CRoW Access Land.
- 4.44 Overall, the Landscape Character Area is a semi-rural landscape with a semi-enclosed character and a varied tranquillity. There are also localised urbanising influences from development and transport routes.

Key Characteristics

- Undulating landform between approximately +5m AOD to +60m AOD and generally lower in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area as the landform falls towards the course of the River Ouse.
- Higher areas of landform, including to the north of Plumpton Green and near to Little Norlington, allowing intervisibility with the wooded backdrop of the surrounding landscape and South Downs National Park creating localised areas of open character. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual, landscape and perceptual setting of the South Downs National Park.
- Localised reference to tributaries of the River Ouse, including the Bevern Stream, denoted by riparian vegetation such as willow and other mature tree vegetation on slightly lower ground in the undulating landscape.
- Vegetation cover consists of a mature network of trees including oak, hedgerows and hedgerow trees of variable quality and levels of management surrounding small to medium scale field enclosures, creating a semi-enclosed landscape. Typically, more defined hedgerows around arable field enclosures and more scrub-like hedgerows around pasture field enclosures.
- Land cover of typically grassland with some scrubland, including in the western part of the Landscape Character Area near to Plumpton Green.
- Land use predominantly a mixture of pasture and arable agricultural use, including equestrian grazing near to Plumpton Green and South Chailey.
- Predominantly a mixture of unplanned and assart, enclosed agricultural land of ancient form and amalgamated, enclosed agricultural land of modern form.

- Barcombe Reservoir and associated pumping station, albeit not notable features in the landscape due to surrounding mature vegetation in close proximity.
- Linear two-storey residential development, predominantly brick and rendered, along the road network and several smaller concentrated areas of residential development, including Little Norlington and Upper Wellingham in the eastern part and Cooksbridge and Barcombe in the western part.
- Settlement areas and linear, ribbon development is typically located along the ancient drove road network, notably the A275 which continues into the South Downs National Park to the south, Spithurst Road and Town Littleworth Road.
- Contemporary development on the edge of settlement areas, including Gradwell Park on the south-western edge of South Chailey.
- Mixed development typologies interspersed in the agricultural landscape, including farmsteads, small-scale commercial and industrial built form and several small-scale solar farms in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Winding road network, often tree lined but with some more open routes.
- Plashett Park Wood SSSI on the northern edge of the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area, including rare flora and fauna.
- Several areas of ancient woodland across the Landscape Character Area.
- Heritage associations include various listed buildings predominantly of linear development along roads through the Landscape Character Area, such as residential properties and farmsteads.
- Heritage associations include medieval ringwork at Clay Hill scheduled monument
- Recreational access includes an extensive PRoW network, including the Sussex Ouse Valley Way recreational route and including routes through and adjacent to farmsteads through the landscape. Linear strips of CRoW Access Land near to Barcombe and Barcombe Cross.
- Main transport routes are the A26 in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area and the A275 and railway line in the western part of the Landscape Character Area which create localised audible and visual detracting features and decrease tranquillity in comparison to the more rural areas.
- Varied lighting, with some settlements such as Plumpton Green not having street lighting, which aids in protecting the character of the night sky.
- Distinctive view to singular wind turbine outside the study area on higher land near to Glyndebourne.

Forces for Change

- Increased agricultural pressure, further degradation of hedgerows and run-off into watercourses.
- Expansion of settlement areas and further linear development along road networks, which would expand urbanising influences in the generally rural character of the Landscape Character Area.
- Climate change resulting in more extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing, heat stress relating to the landscape and pressure for increased renewable development.
- Disease to trees, including the oak processionary moth.
- Improvements to the PRoW network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers and increased recreational pressures from visitors.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.
- Support the Ouse Valley Climate Action goals, including carbon capture with new tree planting and wildlife habitats, creating water habitats and encourage greener travel initiatives.
- Encourage local natural flood management initiatives in combination with ecological initiatives and requirements.
- Encourage improvements to vegetation including hedgerows in varying condition.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local PRoW network.
- Support the aims and objectives of relevant designations, including rare species conservation.

- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.

Development Guidelines

- Development should be limited and designed to retain the rural character of the area, including avoiding development on higher, more visible areas of the Landscape Character Area.
- Protect and retain existing vegetation across the Landscape Character Area, including ancient woodland and on the edge of settlement areas.
- Avoid any adverse impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance and noting the importance of views from Mount Calburn, Firle Beacon and Blackcap.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.
- Avoid merging of existing settlement areas and consider the cumulative impact of additional renewable schemes within the landscape.
- Reinstatement of historic field boundaries where they have been lost to amalgamation and retain the ancient field pattern within future development.

Landscape Character Area C3: Ditchling Common Western Low Weald

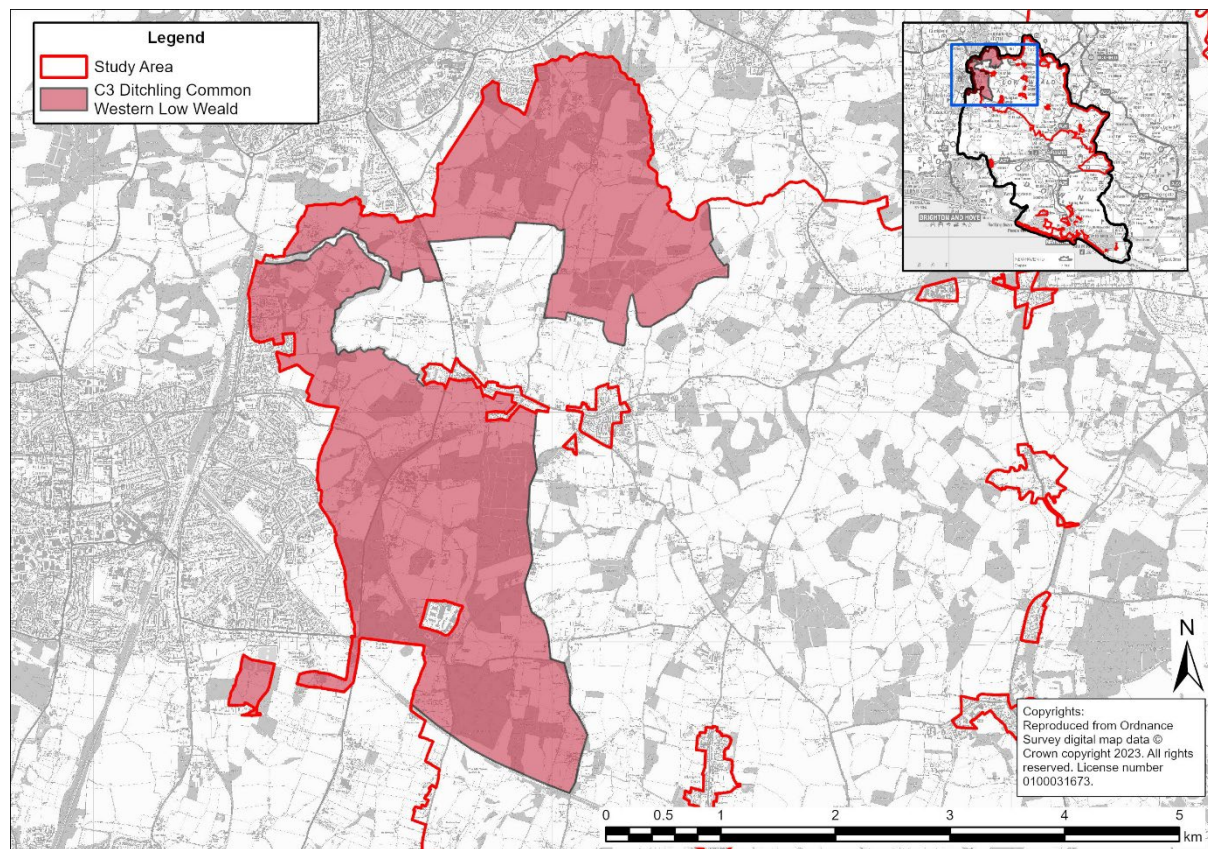


Plate 23: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area C3 in a fill



Plate 24: View of heathland and scrub with a mature wooded backdrop in Landscape Character Area C3



Plate 25: View of mature wooded backdrop and electricity pylons in Landscape Character Area C3



Plate 26: View of enclosed public right of way in Landscape Character Area C3

Location and Boundaries

- 4.45 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area C3 comprises two areas of land, both within the northern part of the district. The Landscape Character Area is split by the Wivelsfield Ouse Catchment. The Landscape Character Area extends to the north of the South Downs National Park and east and south of the district boundary.
- 4.46 The Landscape Character Area lies to the west of the Barcombe, Plumpton and Cooksbridge Western Low Weald (C2) and Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald (C1) and to the north of Plumpton Scarp Footslope (F1).

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.47 The bedrock geology consists predominantly of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. The soils consist predominantly of slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acidic but base-rich loamy and clayey soils in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area and slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage in the northern part.
- 4.48 The Landscape Character Area covers undulating landform between approximately +35m AOD to +75m AOD. There are localised falls in landform associated with streams and tributaries of the River Ouse.
- 4.49 The landscape is heavily characterised by the influence of large continuous and amalgamated blocks of woodland, creating high levels of enclosure. Ancient woodland scattered across the area, including larger areas within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area and a number of small to medium-sized areas in close proximity to one another in the northern part.

- 4.50 Development largely consisting of a dispersed pattern of scattered farmsteads and two storey residential dwellings, typically off ancient drove ways and contained by the mature vegetation network. There is area of denser development, including contemporary commercial built form, residential dwellings on the edge of Burgess Hill and a large-scale industrial park.
- 4.51 Recreational access comprises an extensive PRoW network, including the Sussex Border Way recreational route, and CRoW Access Land at Ditchling Common Country Park. Urbanising features include overhead lines, electricity pylons, route of the B2112, influence of Burgess Hill to the west and the railway line.
- 4.52 Overall, the Landscape Character Area comprises a rural character due to enclosure by mature vegetation and a typically dispersed built form pattern. However, there are several areas in the Landscape Character Area with prominent urbanising features, including in the western part adjacent to Burgess Hill.

Key Characteristics

- The landform is undulating between approximately +35m AOD to +75m AOD.
- Localised influence of streams and tributaries of the River Ouse, including the Pellingford Brook, as well as small to medium-scale ponds, typically denoted by mature vegetation, on lower landform and sometimes noise of flowing water.
- Generally medium-scale field enclosures with some smaller field enclosures in the more settled southern and western parts of the Landscape Character Area, many formed from woodland clearance and often bounded by remnant woodland strips known as shaws.
- Predominantly assarted, enclosed agricultural land of ancient form, as well as some amalgamated, enclosed agricultural land of modern form in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area and planned, enclosed agricultural land of pre-modern form in the central and southern parts.
- Mixture of arable and pasture land use, with hedgerow and hedgerow tree boundaries of varied condition.
- Ancient woodland scattered across the area, including larger areas within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area such as Blackbrook Wood and a number of small to medium-sized areas in close proximity to one another in the northern part, including Strood Wood and Wilderness Wood. Vegetation cover also includes areas of heathland and scrub.
- Landscape heavily characterised by the influence of large continuous and amalgamated blocks of woodland, creating high levels of enclosure, a wooded backdrop in views and limiting long-distance views including those towards the rising landform of the South Downs National Park to the south. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual and landscape setting of the South Downs National Park.
- Development largely consisting of a dispersed pattern of scattered farmsteads, some of which blend into the wooded backdrop due to darker colours, and predominately two-storey brick and rendered residential dwellings, typically off ancient drove ways, resulting in a landscape typically with little relationship to the built form due to mature woodland vegetation.
- Pockets of contemporary built form, including several small and medium-scale commercial buildings including residential care facilities and linear residential dwellings on the edge of Burgess Hill on the western edge of the Landscape Character Area, which are localised detracting features from the local PRoW and road network where visible due to general containment by mature woodland vegetation.
- Visibility of a large-scale industrial park and associated metal fencing, outside the study area, in the south-western part of the Landscape Character Area from the local PRoW network, creating a localised detracting feature.
- Heritage associations include ancient Theobalds Bridleway which is an ancient route.
- Ditchling Common SSSI in the south-western part of the Landscape Character Area, exhibiting a rich flora and fauna including several types of acidic heath grassland and uncommon butterfly species.
- Ancient, fairly straight, north to south drove ways include the B2112, Streat Lane, Hundred Acre Lane, Spatham Lane and the route of the Sussex Border Way recreational route which continues onto the road network north of Wivelsfield.
- Recreational access comprises an extensive PRoW network comprising a mixture of open routes and those enclosed by woodland, including the Sussex Border Way recreational route and including routes through

and adjacent to farmsteads through the landscape. CRow Access Land at Ditchling Common Country Park in the south-western part of the Landscape Character Area, with parking and access to the various tracks.

- Heritage associations of listed buildings, typically associated with historic farmsteads.
- Influence of densely urbanised edge of Burgess Hill on the western boundary of the Landscape Character Area.
- Tall pylons and overhead lines in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area are detracting features and often visible from PRow routes.
- Main transport routes include the B2112 in the western part of the Landscape Character Area and the railway line denoting the southern boundary, which create localised audible and visual detracting features and decrease tranquillity in comparison to the more rural areas.
- Often an audible perception of vehicles which increases in proximity to the B2112.

Forces for Change

- Increased agricultural pressure, further degradation of hedgerows and run-off into watercourses.
- Pressure for improvements to recreational access across the area, including along historic routes such as Theobalds Bridleway.
- Disease to trees, including the oak processionary moth.
- Climate change resulting in more extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape causing pressure on existing woodland cover.
- Further expansion of development in a landscape typically with little relationship to the built form due to mature woodland vegetation.
- Colour of new development in relation to the wooded backdrop.
- Improvements to the PRow network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers and increased recreational pressures from visitors.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.
- Encourage local natural flood management initiatives in combination with ecological initiatives and requirements.
- Encourage improvements to vegetation including hedgerows in varying condition.
- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local PRow network.
- Support the aims and objectives of relevant designations, including heathland and rare species conservation.

Development Guidelines

- Development should be limited and designed to retain the rural character of the majority of the area, noting that there are several areas with prominent urbanising features, including in the western part adjacent to Burgess Hill.
- Protect and retain existing vegetation across the Landscape Character Area, including ancient woodland and on the edge of settlement areas.
- Avoid any adverse impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance and noting the importance of views from Ditchling Beacon and Blackcap.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.

- Any new development should include materials which are well integrated into the wooded backdrop within views through colour studies and references to published guidelines.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.
- Reinstatement of historic field boundaries where they have been lost to amalgamation and retain the ancient field pattern.

Landscape Character Type D: Eastern Low Weald

4.53 With reference to **Figure 15: Lewes Landscape Character Types**, LCT D: Eastern Low Weald covers land in the northern part of the study area in the eastern area near to Glynde and Ringmer. The LCT consists of the following LCA:

- LCA D1: Glynde and Ringmer Eastern Low Weald

Landscape Character Area D1: Glynde and Ringmer Eastern Low Weald

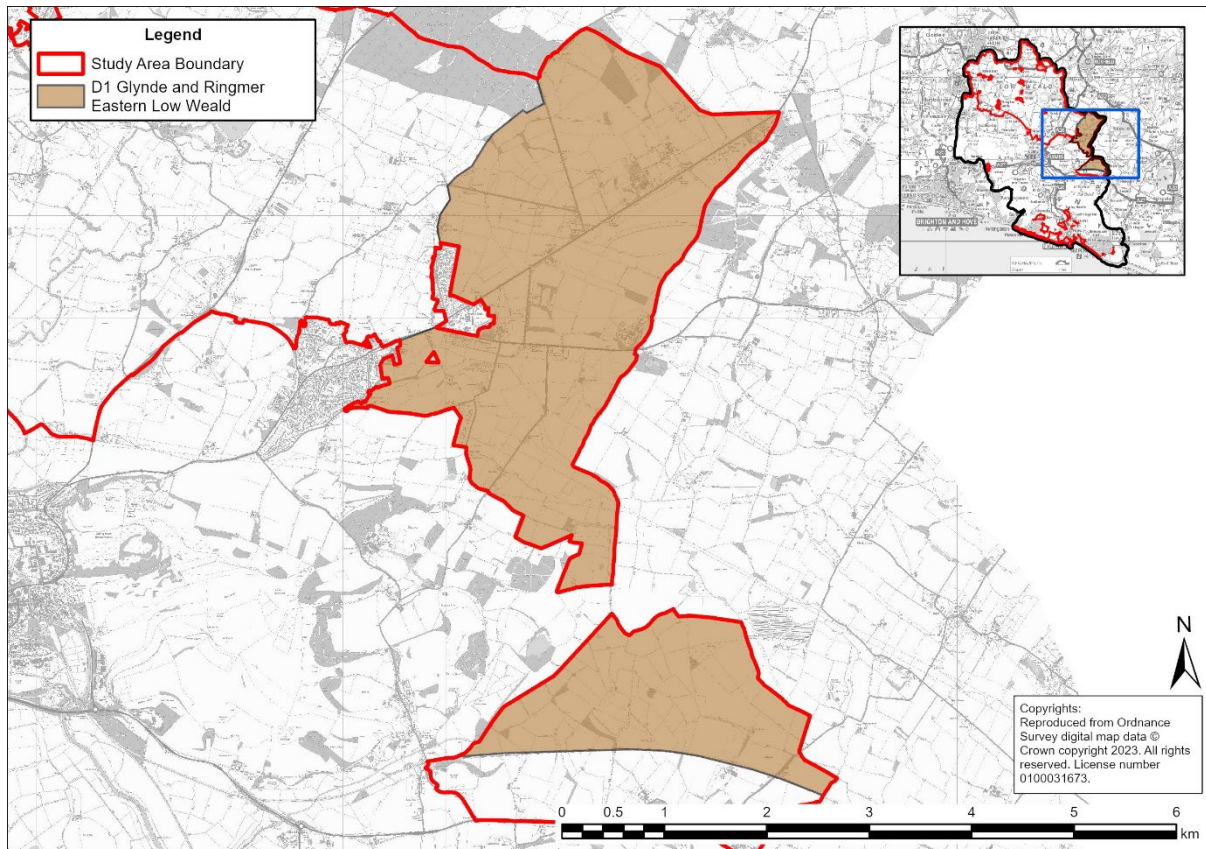


Plate 27: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area D1 in a fill



Plate 28: View of agricultural landform and mature individual trees in Landscape Character Area D1



Plate 29: View of hedgerow and individual trees along the straight road network in Landscape Character Area D1

Location and Boundaries

- 4.54 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area D1 comprises two areas of land, both of which are within the northern part of the district.
- 4.55 The Landscape Character Area is bordered by the Barcombe, Plumpton and Cooksbridge Western Low Weald (C2) to the west, where the landscape has winding lanes, smaller field enclosures, mature hedgerow and tree networks and as result is more enclosed. The Glynde Scarp Footslope (F2) lies approximately 280m to the south of the Landscape Character Area, where the landscape is lower in

elevation and with an increased physical and visual relationship to the South Downs National Park due to its proximity. The Landscape Character Area lies adjacent to the South Downs National Park, which extends to the west towards Lewes.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.56 The bedrock geology consists predominantly of mudstone, with other types including sandstone, siltstone and limestone. The soils consist of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.
- 4.57 The Landscape Character Area is characterised by undulating landform, which is relatively higher in elevation across the northern part of the Landscape Character Area before falling towards the southern edge of the Landscape Character Area and the transition with the Glynde Scarp Footslope Landscape Character Area. Hydrological features include many engineered and therefore linear drains and channels which cross through the landscape.
- 4.58 Vegetation cover consists of a mixture of low hedgerow, tree and woodland copses around field enclosures and non-vegetated boundaries surrounding others, creating a generally open character. Land use includes a mixture of arable and pasture characterised by medium to large-scale fields.
- 4.59 Existing development includes linear two-storey residential development and large modern farm buildings along the straight road network near to the settlement edges of Ringmer and Broyle Side. Recreational access is limited to several PRow in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.60 Overall, this is a transitional landscape due to urban and rural land uses, with existing ribbon development more apparent in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area. There are increased areas of tranquillity and remoteness away from settlements and the road networks, most notably in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area.

Key Characteristics

- Undulating landform, reaching up to approximately +40m AOD, which then falls to the south to approximately 0m AOD towards the course of the Glynde Reach.
- Minor waterbodies, tributaries of the River Ouse, Glynde Reach and many artificial straightened drains and channels meander through, often denoted by riparian vegetation such as willow.
- Vegetation largely consists of well-managed, low hedgerow boundaries, mature individual trees and woodland copses, often with evidence of wind sculpting.
- Large rectilinear fields as evidence of previous enclosure.
- Land use includes a mixture of arable and pasture characterised by medium to large-scale field enclosures, often rectilinear in form.
- Predominantly planned, enclosed agricultural land of pre-modern and ancient form and small pockets of amalgamated, enclosed agricultural land, typically of modern form in the south-eastern and north-eastern parts of the Landscape Character Area.
- Linear two-storey residential development, predominantly brick and rendered, along the road network, concentrated in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area and apparent in the surrounding landscape resulting in a transitional character between urban and rural.
- Large modern farm buildings prominent in the landscape.
- Gliding airfield located in the north-eastern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Development expansion on the edge of settlement areas, including on the southern edge of Broyle Side.
- Straight road network which creates a rectilinear pattern around field boundaries, including the B2192 and B2124 which are localised detracting features and locally reduce tranquillity.
- Ancient woodland south of Plashett Wood.
- Wildlife verges designated for wildlife habitat significance, indicating high levels of biodiversity.
- Heritage associations including several listed buildings, including Broyle Place, and roads are considered to be drove roads along which farmers traditionally took their stock to the Downs.
- Recreational access limited to several PRow.

- Overhead lines visible and electricity pylons present within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area, which are detracting and urbanising features.
- Agricultural smells notable throughout the Landscape Character Area, increasing its rural character notably in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Open views available in places to the South Downs National Park to the south-west, including the singular wind turbine near to Glyndebourne outside the study area, which is a distinctive element. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual, landscape and perceptual setting of the South Downs National Park.

Forces for Change

- Climate change resulting in more extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape.
- Expansion of settlement areas and further linear development along road networks, which would expand urbanising influences.
- Increased agricultural pressure, further degradation of hedgerows and run-off into watercourses.
- Improvements to the PRoW network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Enhance recreational access, notably in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Encourage improvements to vegetation including hedgerows in varying condition.
- Encourage local natural flood management initiatives in combination with ecological initiatives and requirements.
- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.
- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.
- Support local initiatives to increase wildlife and biodiversity, including wildlife verges.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local PRoW network.

Development Guidelines

- Development should be concentrated at existing settlements to ensure it retains the rural parts of the Landscape Character Area, notably in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area where existing development is less apparent and there is a greater open character.
- Protect and retain existing vegetation across the Landscape Character Area, including ancient woodland and on the edge of settlement areas.
- Avoid any adverse impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance and noting the importance of views from Mount Calburn.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.
- Avoid merging of existing settlement areas.
- Reinstatement of historic field boundaries where they have been lost to amalgamation.

Landscape Character Type E: Ouse Catchment

4.61 With reference to **Figure 15: Lewes Landscape Character Types**, LCT E: Ouse Catchment covers land within the northern and southern parts of the study area. The LCT consists of the following LCA:

- LCA E1: Wivelsfield Ouse Catchment
- LCA E2: Lewes Ouse Catchment
- LCA E3: Newhaven and Seaford Ouse Catchment
- LCA E4: South Highton Ouse Catchment

Landscape Character Area E1: Wivelsfield Ouse Catchment

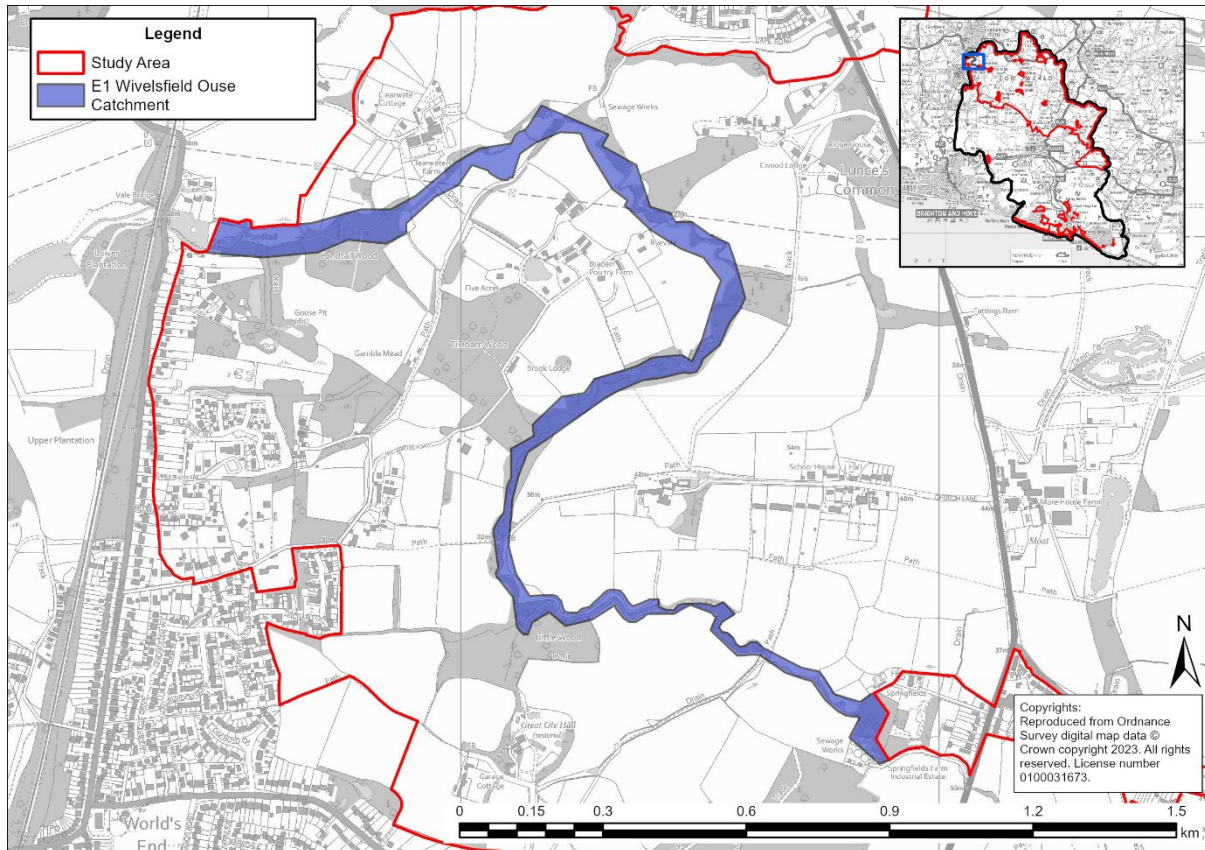


Plate 30: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area E1 in a fill



Plate 31: View of wooden fencing crossing the stream in Landscape Character Area E1



Plate 32: View of the large bank to the stream in Landscape Character Area E1

Location and Boundaries

4.62 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area E1 comprises an area of land within the northern part of the district, forming a narrow tract of land to the north-east of Burgess Hill and the edge of the district.

- 4.63 The Landscape Character Area is bordered by the Ditchling Common Western Low Weald (C3) to the west, south and north-east and the Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald (C1) to the south-east, where the landscape is more influenced by an agricultural landscape on relatively higher ground on the immediate boundaries. The Landscape Character Area is bordered by the district boundary to the west.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.64 The bedrock geology consists of predominantly mudstone, with several strips of clay-ironstone running through. The soils consist mostly of slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils with a section of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.65 The Landscape Character Area covers very gently undulating landform reflecting the course of a stream. The stream is lined by mature trees and low-level bankside vegetation, which creates an enclosed and generally tranquil character.
- 4.66 Recreational access includes a number of PROWs which occasionally cross the stream using wooden footbridges. There is no built form in the Landscape Character Area, but there are intermittent views of built form in the wider area, including close proximity electricity pylons, when not screened by mature vegetation.

Key Characteristics

- Very gently undulating landform between approximately +25m AOD to +35m AOD.
- Mature tree lined and scrub edge to the course of a generally slow-moving stream winding through the landscape, which is a tributary to the River Ouse, resulting in high levels of enclosure and tranquillity as low intervisibility with existing built form in the surrounding area and only heavily framed views by foreground vegetation available in places.
- Coppicing used to manage regenerate tree growth.
- Areas adjacent to the course of a stream allowing standing water to collect during times of heavy rainfall.
- Large bank to the stream held together by large tree roots.
- Drainage pipes from agricultural fields in surrounding study area, which demonstrates the function of this Landscape Character Area as drainage.
- The Landscape Character Area passes through several areas of ancient woodland, including Little Wood.
- Recreational access includes several PROWs, which extend into the wider agricultural landscape and surrounding settlement areas within the study area and beyond, including the use of wooden fencing to denote routes.
- Heritage associations include Theobalds Bridleway which is an ancient route and passes through the Landscape Character Area.
- Framed views available from the northern part of the Landscape Character Area to electricity pylons and overhead wires, which appear large due to their close proximity and are localised urbanising features.
- High perceptual value, via sounds of trees moving in the wind, water flowing along the course of the stream creating a generally high sense of tranquillity and wildness.

Forces for Change

- Climate change resulting in more extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing, heat stress relating to the landscape and erosion to the bank of the stream.
- Urban expansion and development in the wider area reducing tranquillity.
- Increased agricultural practises in the wider study area and increased run-off into the stream.
- Improvements to the PROW network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Encourage local natural flood management initiatives in combination with ecological initiatives and requirements.

- Continue to preserve and enhance the local PRow network and expand where possible to increase recreational access alongside the stream, with the use of wooden fencing to denote routes where needed, rather than more urbanising materials such as metal fencing.
- Encourage management techniques, such as coppicing, to retain the mature tree vegetation cover alongside the bank of the stream and regenerate growth. Especially to screen views towards existing detracting features, such as electricity pylons.
- Retain the rural and generally tranquil character via new green and blue infrastructure initiatives.

Development Guidelines

- Avoid development to retain the character of the area and the functional value of the floodplain.
- Protect and retain existing vegetation across the Landscape Character Area, including ancient woodland.

Landscape Character Area E2: Lewes Ouse Catchment

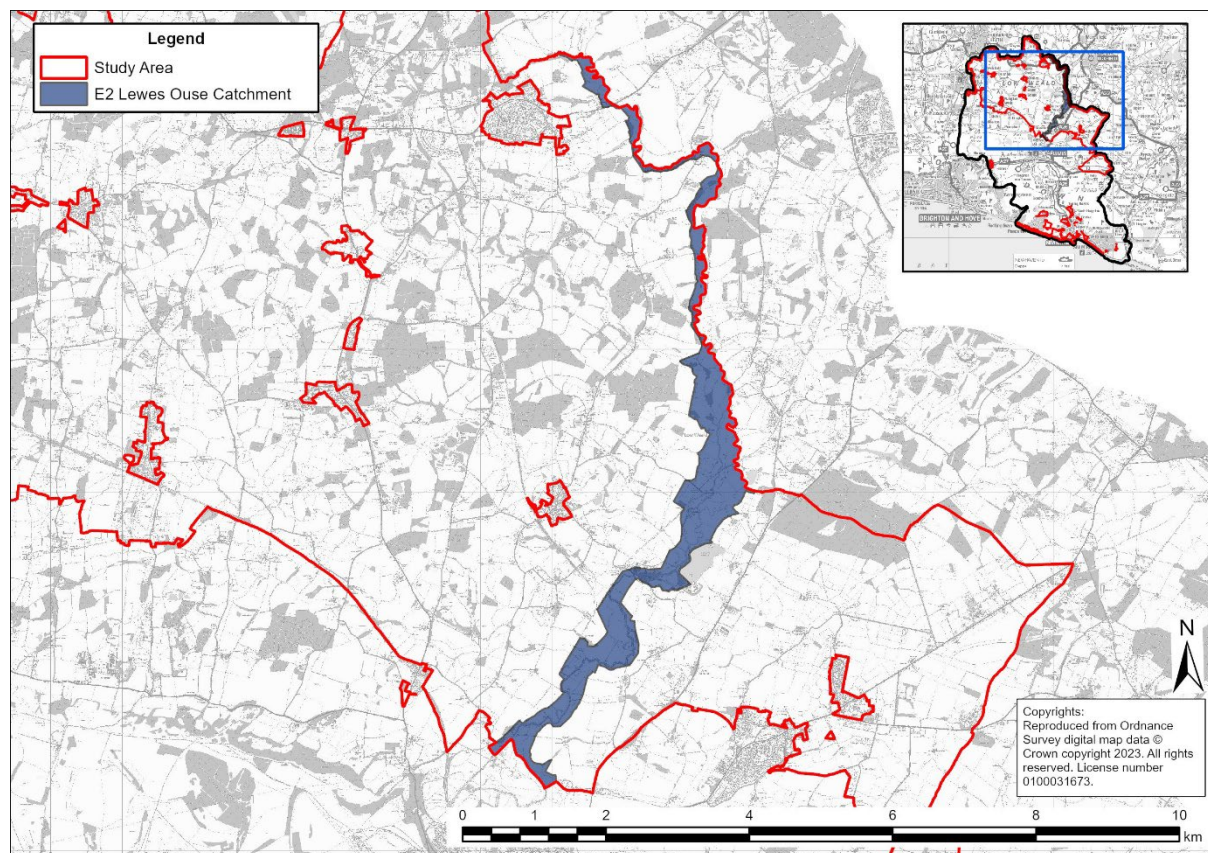


Plate 33: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area E2 in a fill



Plate 34: View of River Ouse flowing through the landscape and mature trees in Landscape Character Area E2

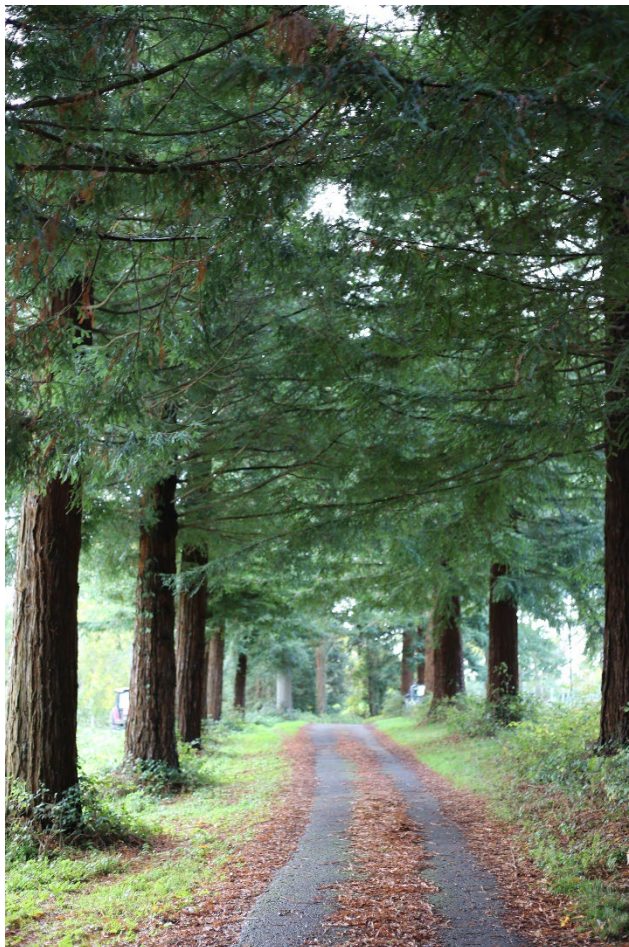


Plate 35: View of tree-lined avenue along part of the Sussex Ouse Valley Way in Landscape Character Area E2



Plate 36: View of electricity pylons in the distance from within Landscape Character Area E2



Plate 37: View of local artist adjacent to the River Ouse and riparian vegetation in Landscape Character Area E2

Location and Boundaries

- 4.67 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area E2 comprises a continuous narrow tract of land within the northern part of the district. The Landscape Character Area extends north-east from the edge Lewes and the South Downs National Park, along the alignment of the River Ouse and its catchment to the north-eastern edge of the district.
- 4.68 The northern part of the Landscape Character Area is bordered by the Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald (C1) to the west. The southern part of the Landscape Character Area bordered by Barcombe, Plumpton and Cooksbridge Western Low Weald (C2) to the east and west where the landscape is more undulating and wooded.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.69 The bedrock geology consists of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. The soils consist predominantly of loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater.
- 4.70 The Landscape Character Area covers low-lying and predominantly flat landform with very localised undulations and lies between approximately 0m and +10m AOD. The River Ouse meanders across the landscape, which is the main hydrological feature, along with several tributaries and small oxbow lakes. The River Ouse is generally a notable feature physically and visually but also hidden in places due to surrounding mature, riparian vegetation.
- 4.71 The Landscape Character Area comprises small-scale, irregular floodplain field enclosures in pastoral use with riparian vegetation and bound by hedgerows and intermittent riverside trees. The extent of woodland coverage increases across the northern part of the character in contrast to the more open field pattern across the southern part of the character area. The density and extent of this woodland within the character area alters the sense of enclosure and perception of the wider landscape.
- 4.72 The recreational use of the Landscape Character Area includes the Sussex Ouse Valley Way which mainly follows the course of the River Ouse, until the northern part of the character area where the route diverts towards Newick. Other notable recreational activities are coarse fishing and painting. These recreational opportunities are supported by car-parking at Barcombe, demonstrating the character area is a visitor attraction.
- 4.73 Overall, the Landscape Character Area exhibits a high level of tranquillity due to the dominant rural character and land use, devoid of built form, apart from a public house and several farm buildings, and limited perception of vehicles, with increased levels of enclosure within well wooded areas. The main exception is a localised area in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area due to audible intrusion from the A272.

Key Characteristics

- Predominantly flat landform with very localised undulations associated with the River Ouse meandering through the landscape, at between approximately 0m AOD and +10m AOD.
- The River Ouse is generally a notable feature physically and visually with differing speed of movement which creates distinction in the sound levels of flowing water. High sounds of flowing water near to weir to the north-east of Isfield.
- Built form limited to a two-storey public house and several farm buildings.
- Recreational access is low, but the Sussex Ouse Valley Way is a recreational route and supports additional facilities including coarse fishing and is part of the local PRow network, along with a small area of CRow Access Land.
- Generally small field enclosures in the floodplain, and bound by low, managed hedges in varying condition.
- Mixture of reclaimed, enclosed agricultural land of pre-modern form and piecemeal of open strip fields, enclosed agricultural land of ancient form.
- Riparian vegetation consisting of scrub and mature trees, such as willow and alder, adjacent to the River Ouse, resulting in its course being less prominent in places in the immediate landscape.
- Tranquillity generally high as the Landscape Character Area is devoid of settlement and there is a low perception of wider settlement infrastructure. Noting some views of electricity pylons in the distance.
- High degree of intervisibility with the South Downs National Park from the southern part of the Landscape Character Area due to the more open character. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual, landscape and perceptual setting of the South Downs National Park.
- Higher sense of enclosure within the northern part of the Landscape Character Area due to the density of the woodland.
- Ancient woodland at Oaktree Wood near to Isfield. Other adjacent woodland areas include Lodge Wood, Rocky Wood and Hanger Wood.
- Located within the edge of the Ashdown Forest, designated as Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) protection zone in which new residential development would need to mitigate potential harm due to increased recreational pressure.

- Distinctive view of The Parish Church of St Margaret, Isfield (Grade I listed building) from part of the Sussex Ouse Valley Way.
- Association with the designed landscape near to remains of Isfield Castle and Isfield Place, with a tree-lined avenue along part of the Sussex Ouse Valley Way in proximity to these assets.
- Recreational use includes local artists painting the River Ouse and its floodplain.
- Metal and wooden fencing used alongside the River Ouse is a locally visually detracting feature in relation to the rural landscape.

Forces for Change

- Climate change resulting in more extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing, heat stress relating to the landscape and erosion of the river bank.
- Urban expansion and development in the surrounding landscape reducing the sense of tranquillity and remoteness within the Landscape Character Area.
- Increased agricultural pressure, further degradation of hedgerows and run-off into watercourses.
- Improvements to the PRoW network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers and increased recreational pressures from visitors.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Enhance recreational access to the River Ouse, its floodplain and across the Landscape Character Area.
- Encourage improvements to vegetation including hedgerows in varying condition and long-term succession of woodlands.
- Encourage local natural flood management initiatives in combination with ecological initiatives and requirements.
- Support the Ouse Valley Climate Action goals, including carbon capture with new tree planting and wildlife habitats, creating water habitats and encourage greener travel initiatives.
- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.
- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.

Development Guidelines

- Avoid development to retain the rural character of the area and the floodplain.
- Protect and retain existing vegetation across the Landscape Character Area, including ancient woodland.
- Avoid any adverse impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities through potential changes in land management, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance and noting the importance of views from Blackcap and Mount Calburn.
- Development beyond the Landscape Character Area should avoid impacting the existing levels of tranquillity and key views and should be assessed for its visual impact, including from locations within the South Downs National Park.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.
- Retain the ancient field pattern, including strip fields.

Landscape Character Area E3: Newhaven and Seaford Ouse Catchment

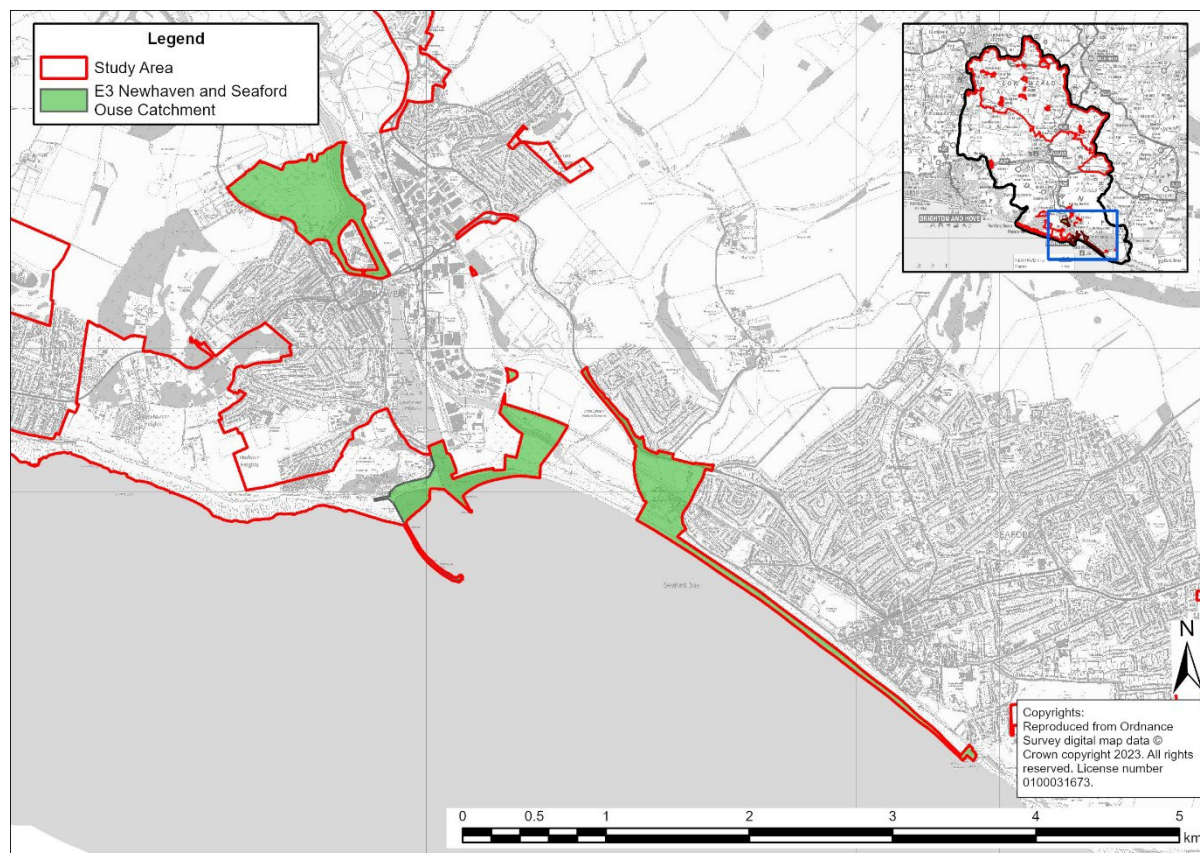


Plate 38: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area E3 in a fill



Plate 39: View of vegetated shingle in Landscape Character Area E3



Plate 40: View of railway line and rising landform of the South Downs National Park in the background in Landscape Character Area E3

Location and Boundaries

- 4.74 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area E3 comprises several areas of land all within the southern part of the district. The areas are located near to the River Ouse and its catchment area on the edges of Newhaven and Seaford.
- 4.75 The Landscape Character Area borders the Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford and Saltdean Downland Landscape Character Area (B1) in one location where the landscape is more influenced by undulating downland. The Landscape Character Area also borders the South Downs National Park which extends further to the north.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.76 The bedrock geology consists of predominantly chalk. There are a mix of soil types, including loamy and clayey soils of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater and shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone.
- 4.77 The Landscape Character Area covers a predominantly flat area of land within the low-lying catchment of the River Ouse, between approximately 0m AOD to +10m AOD. The landform rises gently to the edges of the Landscape Character Area in the northern part. This landscape is characterised by hydrological features, most notably being the River Ouse as it flows into the English Channel and Mill Creek. Distinctive elements include white chalk cliffs, as well as rich habitats such as vegetated shingle.
- 4.78 The Landscape Character Area represents a transitional area between the South Downs National Park, settlement edges and coastline. The Landscape Character Area has a high influence from the surrounding settlement areas and built form, including industrial buildings.
- 4.79 Overall, the Landscape Character Area exhibits localised areas of tranquillity due to framed views to the South Downs National Park and feelings of openness adjacent to the coastline, but is predominantly influenced heavily by detracting, urbanising features including industrial buildings and hard engineered coastal defences.

Key Characteristics

- Predominantly flat landform within the low-lying River Ouse catchment between approximately 0m AOD to +10m AOD.

- Considerable influence of hydrology, including the River Ouse as it flows into the English Channel, Mill Creek, drainage ditches and minor streams.
- Varied vegetation cover, including vegetated shingle with wildflowers and sea kale in the southern part, as well as scrub, grassland and trees within the area north of Newhaven.
- Includes reclaimed, enclosed agricultural land of typically pre-modern form, secondary woodland of Victorian to modern form and coastal and intertidal rough ground.
- Land use includes a country park in the area north of Newhaven, which is a restored landfill site and is now managed for its ecology.
- Existing built form includes a one-storey holiday park but is otherwise largely devoid.
- Hard engineered coastal defences are visible within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area and are visual detracting features.
- Recreational access includes National Cycle Network route 2, the England Coast Path, Vanguard Way. Coastal Margin Access Land and a country park. These are accessed using predominantly stone paths and desire lines.
- Urbanising influence of the A259, railway line extending east from Newhaven and Newhaven Port, which lessens tranquillity due to traffic movement and noise.
- Heritage associations include the Newhaven Military Fort and Lunette Battery scheduled monument.
- Distinctive views to chalk cliffs in views near to the English Channel from the southern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Feelings of openness and localised tranquillity adjacent to the English Channel between the settlements of Newhaven and Seaford, adjacent to the wider River Ouse floodplain and where framed views are available to the undulating landform of the South Downs National Park to the north. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual setting of the South Downs National Park.
- Distinctive views available to the Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility outside the area, creating further urban influence.

Forces for Change

- Development encroaching into areas of open space between settlement areas, which provides a setting to the South Downs National Park.
- Tourism and recreational pressure along the coastline, potentially reducing biodiversity levels.
- Climate change increasing extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing, heat stress relating to the landscape and further erosion to the coastline.
- New and repairs to sea defence works may increase the urban influence along the southern coastal edge.
- Improvements to the PRow network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers and increased recreational pressures from visitors.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.
- Encourage local natural flood management initiatives in combination with ecological initiatives and requirements.
- Support the Ouse Valley Climate Action goals, including carbon capture with new tree planting and wildlife habitats, creating water habitats and encourage greener travel initiatives.
- Management of recreational and tourism pressures along the coastline and within the country park to ensure that existing biodiversity levels and species-rich habitats are retained and enhanced, including the distinctive vegetated shingle and wildflowers between Newhaven and Seaford.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local PRow network.
- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.

Development Guidelines

- Existing flat, open space along the coastline between Newhaven and Seaford should be retained.
- Careful siting and mitigation planting, where appropriate, would be required for any new development to respect the local context, noting that this would not be appropriate in the open space between Newhaven and Seaford.
- Avoid any adverse impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance and noting the importance of views from Nore Down and Telscombe Tye.
- Development should adhere to the most recent guidance set out within the adjacent Marine Management Organisation (MMO) South Inshore Marine Plan Area.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.

Landscape Character Area E4: South Heighton Ouse Catchment

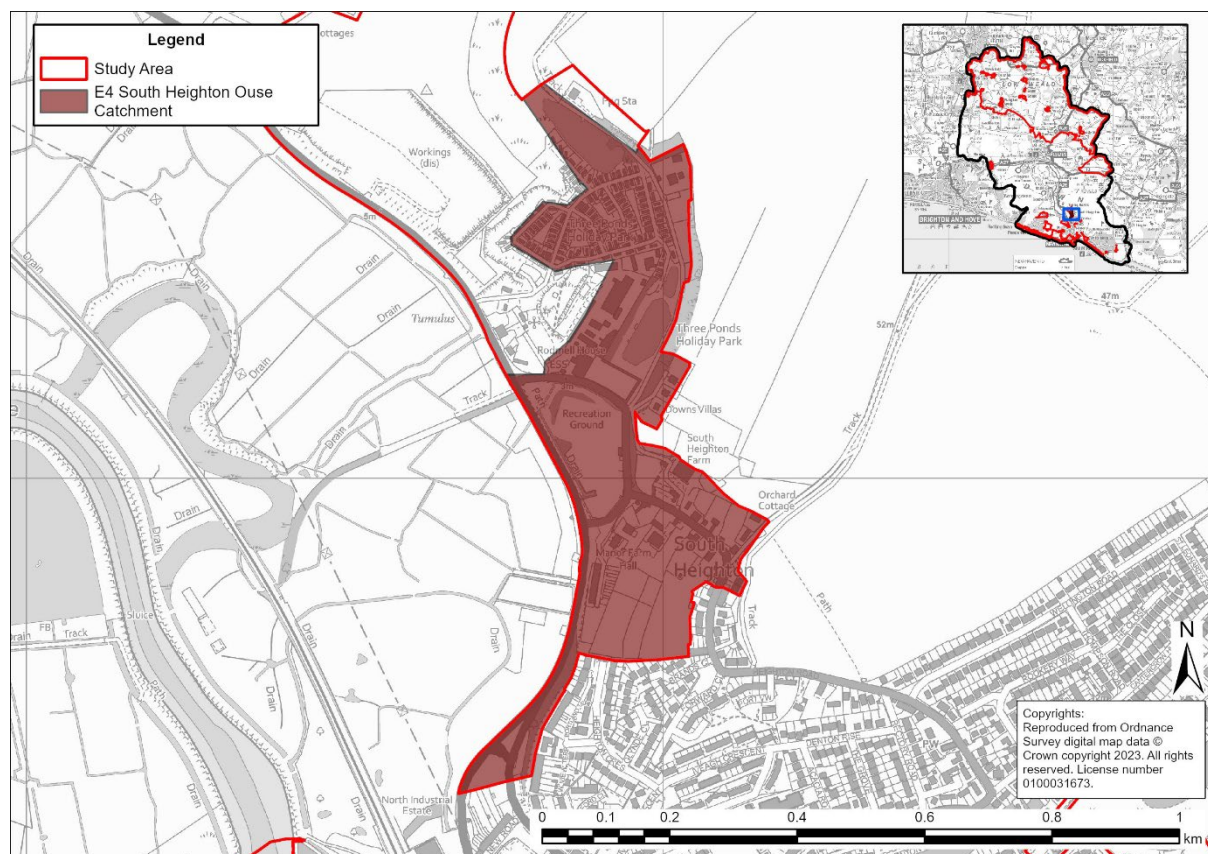


Plate 41: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area E4 in a fill



Plate 42: View of pond in Landscape Character Area E4



Plate 43: View of chalk cliffs in Landscape Character Area E4



Plate 44: View of industrial buildings in Landscape Character Area E4

Location and Boundaries

- 4.80 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area E4 comprises an area of land within the southern part of the district. The area is located on the northern edge of South Heighton to the east of the A26 and extends north to Downs Villas.
- 4.81 The Landscape Character Area borders the Peacehaven, Newhaven, Seaford and Saltdean Downland Landscape Character Area (B1) where the landscape is more influenced by undulating downland and lies adjacent to the South Downs National Park which continues to the north, east and west.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.82 The bedrock geology consists of predominantly chalk. The soil type comprises of shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone.
- 4.83 The Landscape Character Area covers a gently undulating area of land within the low-lying catchment of the River Ouse, between approximately +10m AOD to +30m AOD. The landform rises gently to the edges of the Landscape Character Area in the northern part. This landscape is characterised by hydrological features, including ponds and field drains.
- 4.84 The Landscape Character Area represents a transitional area between the South Downs National Park and settlement edges. The Landscape Character Area has a high influence from the surrounding settlement areas and built form, including holiday parks and industrial buildings.
- 4.85 Overall, the Landscape Character Area exhibits localised areas of tranquillity due to framed views to the South Downs National Park and enclosure from mature vegetation, but is predominantly influenced heavily by detracting, urbanising features including industrial buildings.

Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating area of land within the low-lying catchment of the River Ouse, between approximately +10m AOD to +30m AOD.
- Influence of hydrological features, including ponds and field drains.
- Varied vegetation cover, including scrub and bramble within and surrounding field enclosures with mature vegetation such as willow.
- Residential extension of 19th century to modern form, rural settlement of Victorian to modern form, amalgamated enclosed agricultural land of Victorian to modern form and reclaimed, enclosed agricultural land of typically pre-modern form.

- Land use includes football pitches and some pastoral agricultural use.
- Existing built form includes a one-storey holiday park, two-storey brick and flint residential dwellings within South Highton and industrial warehouses.
- Varied materials used for pathways and roads, including made roads and minor tracks.
- Recreational access is limited but includes a small section of the local PRow network in the southern part.
- Urbanising influence of the A26 extending north from Newhaven, which lessens tranquillity due to traffic movement and noise.
- Heritage associations include listed buildings at South Highton.
- Distinctive views to chalk cliffs near to the settlement of Tarring Neville.
- Feelings of openness and localised tranquillity where framed views are available to the undulating landform of the South Downs National Park to the north. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual setting of the South Downs National Park.

Forces for Change

- Higher density of development within the Landscape Character Area as an extension of this context of South Highton immediately to the south, in an area which provides a setting to the South Downs National Park.
- Climate change increasing extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape.
- Improvements to the PRow network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers and increased recreational pressures from visitors.

Land Management Guidelines

- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.
- Retention of woodland vegetation as this create a distinction between the Landscape Character Area and relatively open floodplain to the west.
- Encourage local natural flood management initiatives in combination with ecological initiatives and requirements.
- Support the Ouse Valley Climate Action goals, including carbon capture with new tree planting and wildlife habitats, creating water habitats and encourage greener travel initiatives.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local PRow network.
- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.

Development Guidelines

- Retain interspersed development pattern as the Landscape Character Area represents a transitional landscape between the South Downs National Park downland and coastal settlement area
- Careful siting and mitigation planting, where appropriate, would be required for any new development to respect the local context.
- Avoid any adverse impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.

Landscape Character Type F: Scarp Footslope

4.86 With reference to **Figure 15: Lewes Landscape Character Types**, LCT F: Scarp Footslope covers land within the northern part of the study area, on the southern edges. The LCT consists of the following LCA:

- LCA F1: Plumpton Scarp Footslope
- LCA F2: Glynde Scarp Footslope

Landscape Character Area F1: Plumpton Scarp Footslope

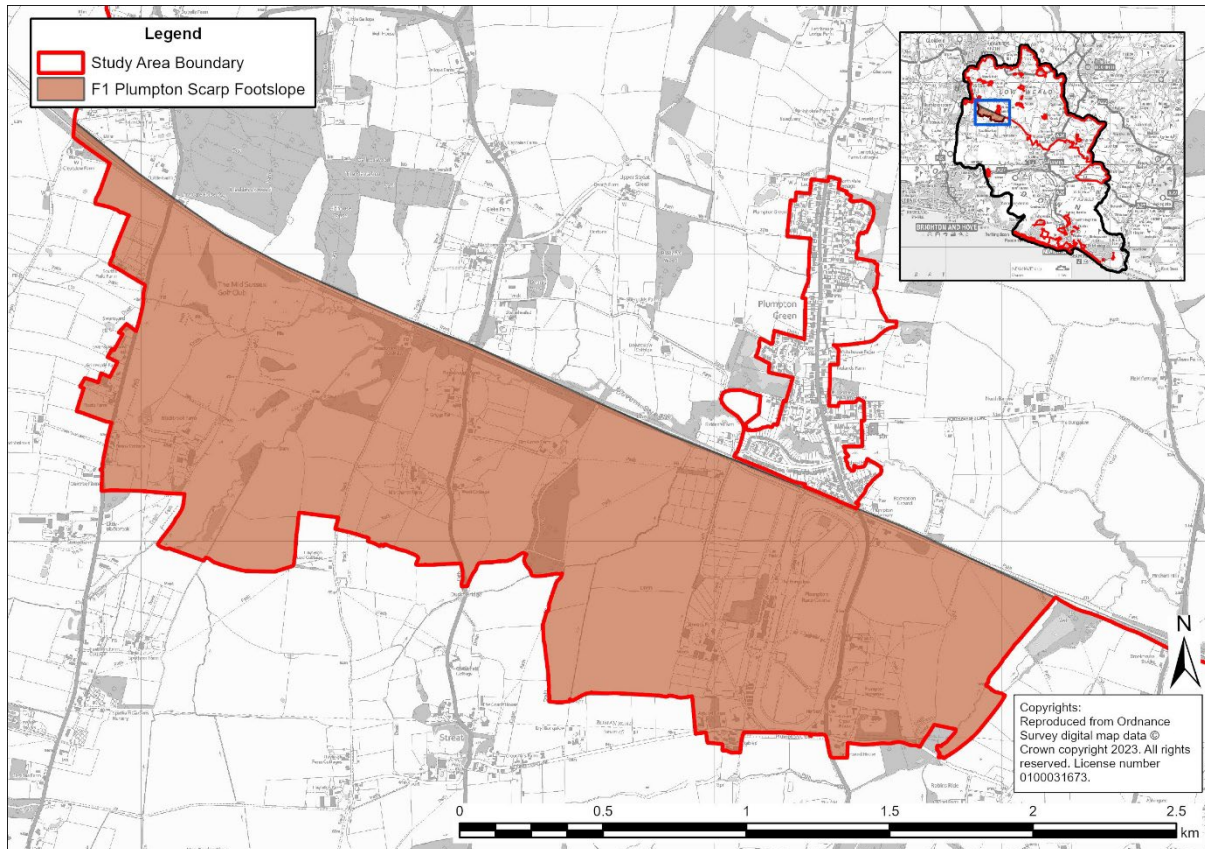


Plate 45: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area F1 in a fill



Plate 46: View of mature tree and hedgerow vegetation in Landscape Character Area F1



Plate 47: View of gradually falling landform and mature vegetation with views to the South Downs National Park above the tree line in Landscape Character Area F1

Location and Boundaries

- 4.87 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area F1 comprises a small area of land in the northern part of the district. The Landscape Character Area includes land south of the railway line to the south of Plumpton Green.
- 4.88 The Landscape Character Area is bordered by the Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald (C1) and Ditchling Common Western Low Weald (C3) to the north, where the landscape is more influenced by woodland blocks of various sizes. The Landscape Character Area borders the South Downs National Park, which extends further to the south, and the district boundary.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.89 The bedrock geology consists of predominantly of mudstone with several pockets of sandstone. The soils consist of slowly permeable seasonally wet, slightly acidic but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.
- 4.90 The Landscape Character Area covers a gently falling landform from south to north, from the edge of the South Downs National Park to the railway line. There are small scale streams and small ponds, often denoted by mature vegetation and contribute to the semi-enclosed character.
- 4.91 Vegetation consists of a well-established hedgerow, hedgerow tree and a few linear strips of mature tree vegetation. Views are sometimes available through gaps and above the tree line to the rising landform of the South Downs National Park to the south, resulting in a semi-enclosed character.
- 4.92 Existing development is limited to small-scale commercial development, farmsteads and several residential dwellings located off historic drove ways. Recreational access includes the local PRoW network, with other leisure and visitor land uses via the golf club and racecourse.
- 4.93 Overall, further from the railway line and the racecourse, the landscape has a rural, remote and tranquil character.

Key Characteristics

- The landform gradually falls from the edge of the South Downs National Park at +60m AOD on the southern boundary of the Landscape Character Area to the north, at approximately +35m AOD.
- Localised reference to tributaries of the River Ouse and small ponds, denoted by mature vegetation and visible when in close proximity.
- Small to medium-scale field enclosures in pasture and arable use, often rectangular in shape and irregular in places where streams meander through.
- Fields divided further for equestrian grazing adjacent to the racecourse with electric fencing, which is prominent and creates a localised difference with the character of the remainder of the Landscape Character Area.
- Predominantly planned, enclosed agricultural land of pre-modern form, as well as some unplanned and assart, enclosed agricultural land of ancient form and amalgamated, enclosed agricultural land of modern form.
- Vegetation includes a couple of strips of mature woodland but predominantly limited to intact hedgerow and hedgerow trees denoting field enclosures, which limit medium to long-distance views in places and creates a semi-enclosed landscape.
- Recreational access includes an extensive PRoW network including routes through and adjacent to farmsteads through the landscape, a golf club in the western part of the Landscape Character Area with fairways bordered by established linear trees and tree groups and a racecourse in the eastern part including a large rectangular area of land with associated buildings, car parking and stables.
- The railway line forms the northern boundary of the Landscape Character Area, which creates a localised visual and audible detracting feature via the movement of trains and engineered landform. Further from the railway line and the racecourse, which create localised detracting features, the landscape has a rural, remote and tranquil character and is characterised by agricultural land use.
- Existing development limited to a strip of commercial buildings on the western edge of the racecourse and farmsteads, one and two storey brick and rendered residential dwellings located off historic north to south, straight drove ways.
- Heritage associations include listed buildings, typically relating to historic farmsteads.
- Intervisibility with the rising landform of the South Downs National Park to the south outside the study area above the tree line where intervening field boundary vegetation is not fully screening. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual, landscape and perceptual setting of the South Downs National Park.

Forces for Change

- Climate change resulting in more extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape.

- Increased agricultural pressure, resulting in the degradation of hedgerows and surface run-off into watercourses.
- New development altering existing field patterns and increasing the influence of the racecourse and railway line.
- Improvements to the PRow network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers.
- Potential expansion of racecourse, resulting in further alteration of the field pattern.
- Potential change in land use at the golf club and pressure for redevelopment.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Continue to preserve and enhance the local PRow network.
- Encourage local natural flood management initiatives in combination with ecological initiatives and requirements.
- Retain the small to medium-scale fields and avoid further loss of field boundaries.
- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.
- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.

Development Guidelines

- Aim to avoid development so as to retain the rural character and setting to the South Downs National Park
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Avoid any adverse impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance and noting the importance of views from Ditchling Beacon and Blackcap. Views from the Landscape Character Area to the South Downs National Park should aim to not be obstructed, including from users of the railway line where available.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.
- Reinstatement of historic field boundaries where they have been lost to amalgamation and retain the ancient field pattern.

Landscape Character Area F2: Glynde Scarp Footslope

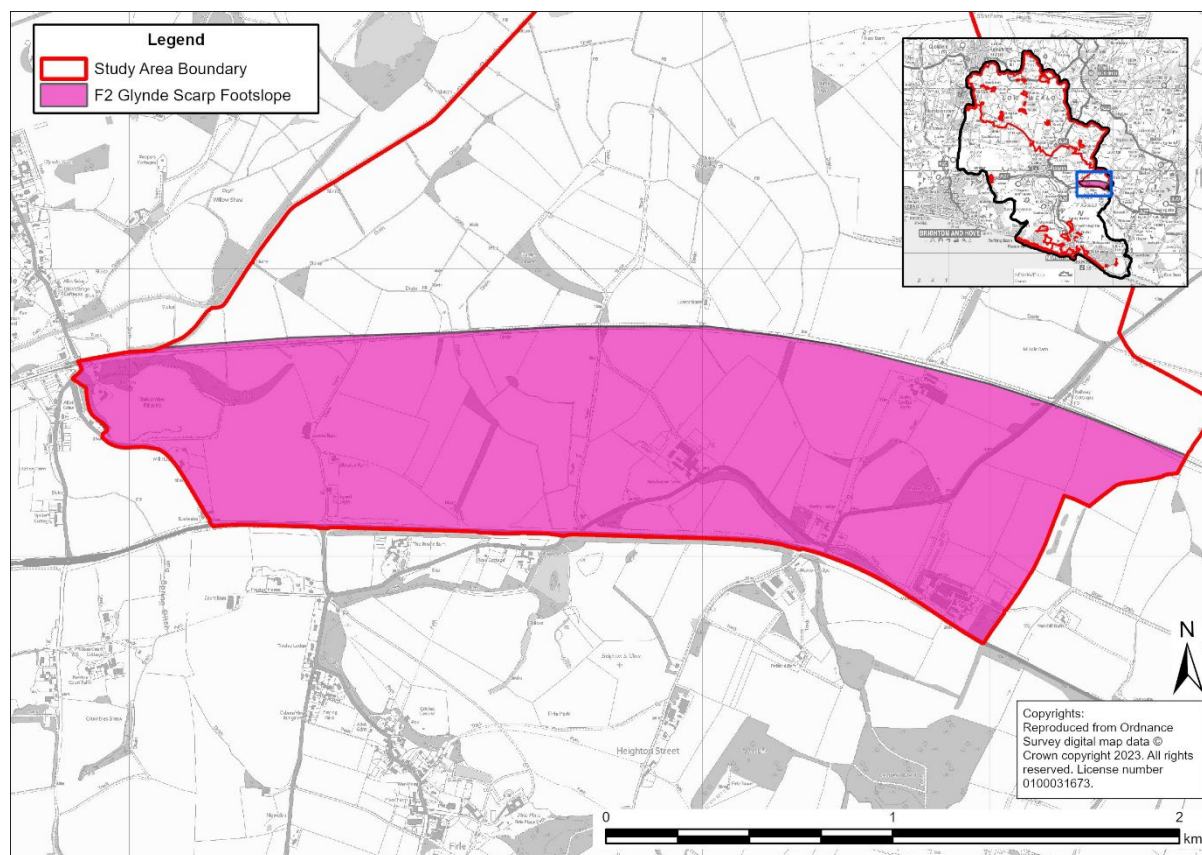


Plate 48: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area F2 in a fill



Plate 49: View of agricultural land with views to the South Downs National Park in the background in Landscape Character Area F2



Plate 50: View of undulating agricultural land and farmstead in Landscape Character Area F2

Location and Boundaries

- 4.94 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area F2 comprises a small area of land within the northern part of the district. The Landscape Character Area includes land from the railway line to the A27, to the south-west of Glynde.
- 4.95 The Glynde and Ringmer Eastern Low Weald Landscape Character Area (D1) is to the north, where the landscape is relatively higher, undulating and settled. The Landscape Character Area extends from the edge of the South Downs National Park to the eastern edge of the district.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.96 The bedrock geology consists predominantly of mudstone, with other types including chalk on the southern edge adjacent to the South Downs National Park. The soils consist of predominantly of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. The soils associated with the course of the Glynde Reach consist of loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater and in the south-eastern part of the Landscape Character Area consist of freely draining lime-rich soils.
- 4.97 The Landscape Character Area covers very gently undulating, low-lying landform, with a slight rise in topography on the southern edge. The landscape is influenced by the Glynde Reach and many artificial straightened drains and channels, which denote field boundaries in places and contribute to the open character.
- 4.98 Vegetation consists of low hedgerow in variable condition, hedgerow trees and linear strips of mature vegetation, creating localised areas of seclusion and with evidence of the impact of wind. Mixture of arable and pasture land use generally within medium to large-scale field enclosures.
- 4.99 Existing development limited to several scattered farmsteads and red brick residential dwellings. No recreational access apart from the National Cycle Network route 90.
- 4.100 Overall, the character is generally rural, however the A27 and railway line are localised detracting features. There is high intervisibility with the South Downs National Park and availability of long-distance views to higher ground including to Firle Park outside the study area to the south. However, views within the Landscape Character Area itself are screened by vegetation cover in places across the very gently undulating landform, resulting in a semi-enclosed character.

Key Characteristics

- Very gently undulating, low-lying landform which lies between approximately 0m AOD to +10m AOD, with a slight rise in topography on the southern edge to approximately +15m AOD on the edge of the South Downs National Park.
- Minor waterbodies, tributaries of the River Ouse, Glynde Reach and many artificial straightened drains and channels, often denoted by riparian vegetation such as willow.
- Mixture of arable, predominantly in the eastern part, and pasture, predominantly in the western part, land use within medium to large-scale irregular field enclosures.
- Predominantly planned, enclosed agricultural land of pre-modern and ancient form and small pockets of amalgamated, enclosed agricultural land, typically of modern form in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Vegetation consisting of low hedgerow in variable condition, hedgerow trees and linear strips of mature vegetation, creating localised areas of seclusion.
- Evidence of wind sculpting within vegetation in places.
- Some field boundaries are non-vegetated and denoted by drainage ditches and individual mature trees, which contributes to the open character in places.
- Ancient woodland at Looover Shaw, which borders Balcombe Pit.
- Existing development limited to several scattered farmsteads and red brick residential dwellings, resulting in a generally rural character.
- Overhead lines and electricity pylons visible from the northern part of the Landscape Character Area, which are detracting features.
- Recreational access via National Cycle Network route 90 in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area, along the lanes and part of the A27.
- Several minor roads across the Landscape Character Area, often bordered by farmland or mature vegetation alongside resulting in varying degrees of enclosure.
- Heritage associations include various listed buildings predominantly of farmsteads.
- Localised urbanising influence of the railway line and A27 along the southern boundary of the Landscape Character Area, reduced due to mature linear vegetation alongside the routes.
- Balcombe Chalk Pit (disused), in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area, is not prominent in the landscape due to mature vegetated surroundings.
- Some long-distance views to higher land outside the Landscape Character Area are limited by woodland blocks outside the study area, however regular views between to long-distance and South Downs National Park on higher ground characterised by chalk edges. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual, landscape and perceptual setting of the South Downs National Park.

Forces for Change

- Climate change resulting in more extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape.
- Increased agricultural pressure, further degradation of hedgerows and run-off into watercourses.
- New development altering existing limited development pattern.
- Pressure of renewable development, noting existing solar farms in close proximity to the north of the Landscape Character Area.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Encourage improvements to vegetation including hedgerows in varying condition.
- Encourage local natural flood management initiatives in combination with ecological initiatives and requirements.
- Retain and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network including as part of the wider ecosystem of the South Downs National Park.

- Refer to relevant South Downs National Park Authority guidance for any other relevant guidelines to preserve the setting of the South Downs National Park.
- Encourage the provision of recreational access, including opportunities to link into the PRoW network within the South Downs National Park to the south.

Development Guidelines

- Retain large-scale, open field enclosures.
- Protect and retain existing vegetation across the Landscape Character Area, including ancient woodland.
- Aim to avoid development and any adverse impact to the South Downs National Park's special qualities, including the setting and intervisibility with the National Park, with reference to relevant guidance. This is particularly important as views from the South Downs National Park to the south are available towards the Landscape Character Area from the ridgeline, including Firle Beacon, and Firle Park registered park and garden in close proximity, as well as Mount Calburn. Views from the Landscape Character Area to the South Downs National Park should aim to not be obstructed, including from users of the railway line where available.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of a similar character of the existing valued context via locally characteristic building forms, high quality detailing and sympathetic contemporary architecture.
- Any new development should be set within a robust landscape framework as part of a wider blue green infrastructure strategy.
- Ensure any development including lighting is assessed for its visual impact, including from the South Downs National Park.
- Reinstatement of historic field boundaries where they have been lost to amalgamation.

Landscape Character Type G: Heathland

4.101 With reference to **Figure 15: Lewes Landscape Character Types**, LCT F: Heathland covers land in the northern part of the study area near to North Chailey. The LCT consists of the following LCA:

- LCA G1: Chailey Common Heathland

Landscape Character Area G1: Chailey Common Heathland

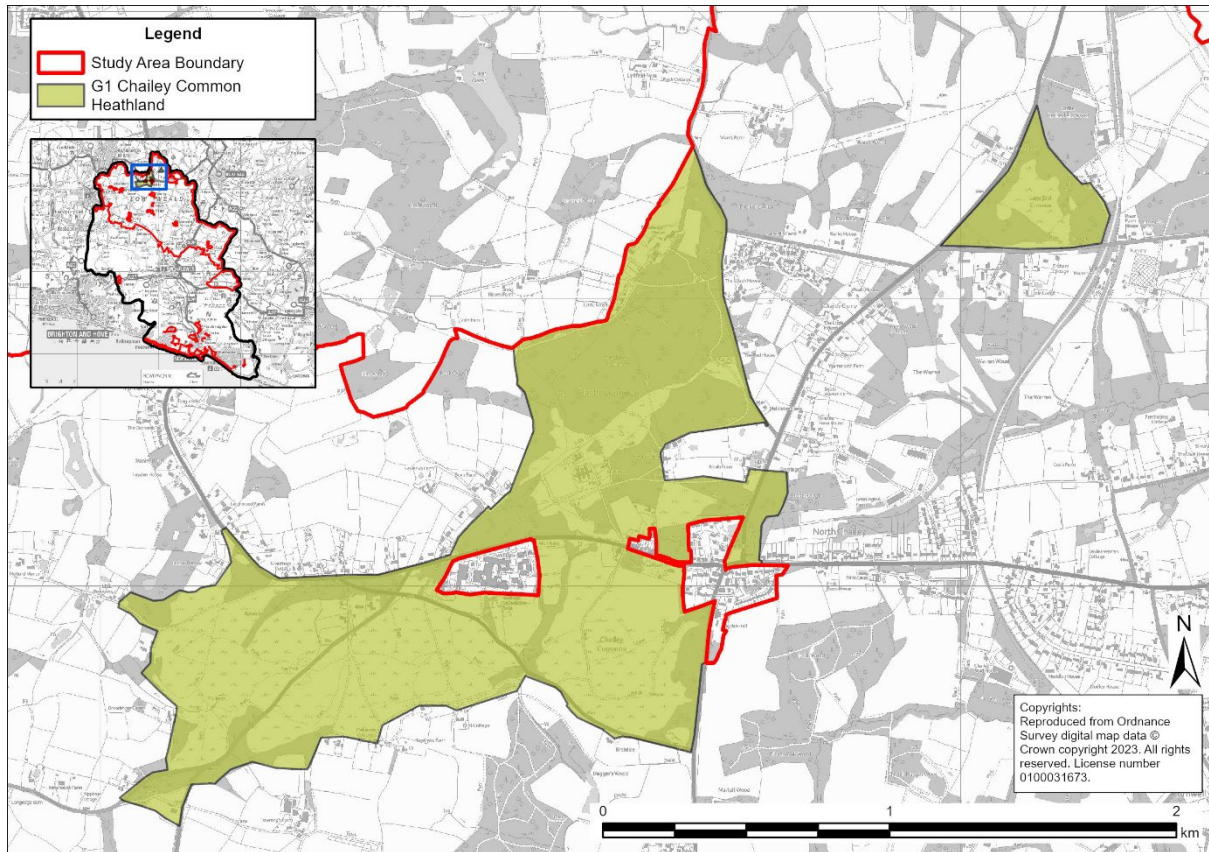


Plate 51: Extract of Figure 16 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area G1 in a fill



Plate 52: View of livestock grazing in Landscape Character Area G1



Plate 53: View of mature woodland vegetation and electricity pylons in the background in Landscape Character Area G1

Location and Boundaries

- 4.102 With reference to **Figure 16: Lewes Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area G1 comprises two areas of land, but both are within the northern part of the district. The extent of the Landscape Character Area largely follows the boundary of the Chailey Common Local Nature Reserve and Chailey Common Site of Special Scientific Interest.
- 4.103 The western part of the Landscape Character Area lies predominately to the west of the A275 and North Chailey. The smaller eastern part of the Landscape Character Area is to the east of the A275.

- 4.104 The boundaries of the western part of the Landscape Character Area consists of the district boundary, North Chailey and the Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald Landscape Character Area (C1) where the landscape is more wooded interspersed with development. The eastern part of the Landscape Character Area is bound by the Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald (C1) Landscape Character Area.

Summary of Landscape Character

- 4.105 The bedrock geology consists of predominantly sandstone, mudstone and siltstone. The soils consisting of a singular soil type of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.
- 4.106 Both the western and eastern parts of the Landscape Character Area comprise undulating landform. The landform ranges between approximately +30m AOD and +75m AOD in the western area and between approximately +30m AOD and +56m AOD in the eastern area. There are varying degrees of enclosure and perception of the wider study area from across the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.107 The land use is common land and the main land cover across the Landscape Character Area is heathland, with associated ecological value via bird and insect communities protected and managed via the ecological designations.
- 4.108 There is no existing built form within the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area. Development is limited to a few rendered and wooden one and two-storey residential properties set within green space and a two-storey brick museum within the western part.
- 4.109 Overall, there are high levels of tranquillity across the Landscape Character Area due to the open and vegetated character and limited perception of settlement. However, overhead pylons are visual detractors and roads are locally audible detractors. High levels of recreational public use and access, as well as cultural association through ancient grazing.

Key Characteristics

- Undulating landform across the Landscape Character Area, resulting in varied intervisibility with the predominantly wooded backdrop of wider landscape.
- Wide open southerly views to the South Downs National Park from higher areas within the western part of the Landscape Character Area, extending from Malling Down / Firle Beacon in the east along to Devils Dyke / Wolstonbury Hill and beyond in the west. The Landscape Character Area forms part of the visual setting of the South Downs National Park
- Northerly views to the High Weald AONB from higher areas within the western part of the Landscape Character Area, including towards Sandstone Ridge and Ashdown Forest.
- Higher degree of enclosure in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area due to surrounding woodland vegetation and a relatively less undulating.
- Dominant heathland land cover, along with moorland, scrub, individual and groups of mature trees and bracken.
- Land use is common land, for recreational use with pasture livestock and equestrian grazing which maintains and allows heathland vegetation to establish.
- Chailey Common LNR and SSSI, designated for its heathland and diverse insect and bird communities.
- Extensive recreational access provided by the PRoW network and CRoW Access Land across the commons, including Pound Common, Chailey Common, Memorial Common, Red House Common, Romany Ridge Common and Lane End Common. This is accessed via several parking areas and involves following a Code of Conduct for users of the Commons, including respecting wildlife.
- Heritage associations including the Chailey Windmill listed building located next to a Yew Tree said to mark the centre of Sussex, which is a distinctive feature in views from the PRoW network, the commons being an ancient landscape of cattle and sheep grazing, war time features on Memorial Common and various books focusing on the heritage of the commons.
- Associations with the manor of Balneath, once part of the estate of St Pancras' Priory, Lewes.
- Recreational use includes local artists and photographers painting the commons and photographing the habitats and species.

- Existing built form limited to a few rendered and wooden one and two storey residential properties set within green space and a two-storey brick museum, resulting in a dominant rural character.
- Views of overhead pylons from the higher parts of the Landscape Character Area are visual detractors.
- Increased sense of tranquillity away from the various major road networks, including the A272 and A275, which are audible and detracting features.
- Chailey Commons Society was formed in 1964 to help preserve, maintain and protect Chailey Common, including organising activities such as besom broom making.
- Unmade paths formed by desire lines through the commons are notable.
- Located within the edge of the Ashdown Forest, designated as Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) protection zone in which new residential development would need to mitigate potential harm due to increased recreational pressure.
- Smells of summer flowering heathers, cow and horse manure, winter damp heather and bracken.
- Sounds of nature, including nightjars, meadow pipits, running water in minor springs and livestock.

Forces for Change

- Increased recreational pressure which may degrade biodiversity and nature value and result in further erosion of the land cover.
- Loss of management resulting in damage to the heathland habitat and species within the commons.
- Climate change resulting increasing extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape causing pressure on existing habitats and species.
- Further urbanisation in surrounding Landscape Character Area resulting in a further decline in tranquillity and impact to key views from elevated parts of the Landscape Character Area.
- Improvements to the PRoW network by local Sussex voluntary rights of way workers.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Support the aims and objectives of relevant designations and Code of Conduct on Chailey Common, including heathland and species management, and ecological designations.
- Support the management programmes associated with each common, including heathland restoration through silver birch removal and grazing.
- Conserve the history of the commons, including ancient cattle and sheep grazing.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local PRoW network.

Development Guidelines

- Avoid development within the Landscape Character Area.
- Development beyond the Landscape Character Area should avoid impacting the existing levels of tranquillity and key views and should be assessed for its visual impact.

Appendix A Sources of Information

4.110 The following documents have been reviewed as part of the Landscape Character Assessment and provide opportunities for further reading to enable more detailed information on matters raised within the assessment.

- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, 2014¹
- European Landscape Convention, 2000²
- National Character Area profiles, 2013-15³
- Marine Character Area profiles, 2014⁶
- Lewes District Local Plan Part 1, 2016¹⁴
- Lewes District Local Plan Part 2, 2020³²
- Barcombe Neighbourhood Plan, 2018³³
- Plumpton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, 2018³⁴
- Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Neighbourhood Development Plan, 2018³⁵
- Newhaven Neighbourhood Plan, 2019³⁶
- A Neighbourhood Plan for Ringmer, 2016³⁷
- Wivelsfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan, 2016³⁸
- Chailey Neighbourhood Development Plan, 2019³⁹
- Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan, 2016⁴⁰
- Newick Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan, 2015⁴¹
- Peacehaven and Telscombe Neighbourhood Plan, 2023⁴²
- Seaford Neighbourhood Plan, 2019⁴³
- East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment, 2016¹⁰
- Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation, 2010²⁶

³² Lewes District Council (2020) *Lewes District Local Plan Part 2 Site Allocations and Development Management Policies*. [online] Available at: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/lewes-local-plan-part-2-site-allocations-and-development-management-policies/>

³³ Barcombe Neighbourhood Plan (2018) *Barcombe Neighbourhood Plan 2010-2030*. [online] Available at: <https://www.wp.barcombepc.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Paper-2.-Draft-NP.pdf>

³⁴ Plumpton Parish Council (2018) *Plumpton Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2030*. [online] Available at: <https://www.plumptonpc.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

³⁵ Ditchling Parish Council (2018) *Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Neighbourhood Development Plan*. [online] Available at: https://www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk/Neighbourhood_Plan_34331.aspx#:~:text=The%20Ditchling%2C%20Streat%20and%20Westmeston,but%20will%20be%20renewed%20periodically

³⁶ Newhaven Town Council (2019) *Newhaven Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2030*. [online] Available at: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans/newhaven-neighbourhood-plan/>

³⁷ Ringmer Parish Council (2016) *A Neighbourhood Plan for Ringmer 2010-2030*. [online] Available at: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans/ringmer-neighbourhood-plan/>

³⁸ Wivelsfield Parish Council (2016) *Wivelsfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030*. [online] Available at: <https://www.wivelsfield.org.uk/planning/neighbourhood-plan/>

³⁹ Chailey Parish Council (2019) *Chailey Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019-2034*. [online] Available at: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/>

⁴⁰ Hamsey Parish Council (2016) *Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030*. [online] Available at: <http://www.hamsey.net/your-council/hamsey-neighbourhood-plan/>

⁴¹ Newick Parish Council (2015) *Newick Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030*. [online] Available at: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/>

⁴² Peacehaven and Telscombe Town Council (2023) *Peacehaven and Telscombe Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2030*. [online] Available at: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Peacehaven-and-Telscombe-Neighbourhood-Plan.pdf>

⁴³ Seaford Town Council (2019) *Seaford Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2030*. [online] Available at: <https://www.seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

- South Downs National Park View Characterisation and Analysis, 2015²⁷
- South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan, 2020⁴⁴
- South Downs National Park Landscape Character Assessment, 2020¹¹
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Beauty Management Plan, 2019⁴⁵
- The Countryside Charity Tranquillity Mapping, 2007²⁸
- The Countryside Charity Dark Skies Mapping, 2016³¹

⁴⁴ South Downs National Park Authority (2020) *South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan 2020-2025*. [online] Available at: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/partnership-management-plan/>

⁴⁵ High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership (2019) *The High Weald AONB Management Plan 2019-2024*. [online] Available at: <https://www.highweald.org/high-weald-aonb-management-plan.html>

Appendix B Field Study Sheet

4.111 The following extract demonstrates the field survey sheets which were used to undertake the Landscape Character Assessment.

aecom.com

Field Study Sheet

Data gathering

Location:		Date:	
Direction of view:		Time:	
OS Grid Reference:	° ' " N ° ' " W	Weather:	
Location and boundary description:			

Photograph number range:	
--------------------------	--

Draft Landscape Character Type	
Draft Landscape Character Area	

Natural and Cultural / Social Features

LANDFORM

Flat	Rolling	Undulating	Broad Valley
Plain	Upland	Downland	Gentle slopes
Escarpment	Ridgeline	Hill	Narrow valley
Basin	Floodplain	Plateau	Steep slopes
Promontory	Rock outcrops	Cliffs	Headland
Fenland	Other		

ADDITIONAL NOTES

--

HYDROLOGY

River	Meanders	Canalised	Armoured
Wide	Deep	Shallow	Fast-moving
Estuary	Drainage channels	Tidal	Slow-moving
Tributaries	Lakes	Reservoirs	Ephemeral

	Streams		Ponds		Locks		Other
--	---------	--	-------	--	-------	--	-------

ADDITIONAL NOTES**LAND USE**

	Farming - intensive		Farming - extensive		Brownfield		Horticulture / market gardening
	Residential		Commercial		Industrial		Forestry
	Educational		Parkland		Transport		Natural
	Historic		Recreational		Mineral		Other
	Rewilding		Energy / Power		Other		

ADDITIONAL NOTES**VEGETATION COVER**

	Arable		Pastoral		Permanent pastoral		Ley / Improved
	Rough grazing		Wet meadow		Meadow planting		Amenity grassland
	Common / open land		Parkland		Copse		Marsh
	Bog / Peat Bog		Coniferous woodland		Deciduous woodland		Mixed woodland
	Hedgerows		Hedgerow trees		Specimen trees		Avenues
	Scrubland / bracken		Heathland / Moorland		Shelterbelt		Wetland
	Dunes		Orchard		Gardens		Paddocks
	Set-aside		Bare earth		Built up		Other

ADDITIONAL NOTES

DOMINANT PLANT SPECIES

Oak	Ash	Hawthorn	Hazel
Field maple	Dogwood	Blackthorn	Elm
Elder	Holly	Rhododendron	Gorse
Heather	Grasses	Nettle	Other

ADDITIONAL NOTES**LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS**

Nucleated settlement	Linear settlement	Dispersed settlement	Residential buildings
Industrial buildings	Agricultural buildings	Religious buildings	Recreational buildings
Landmark buildings	Ruins / Historic	Earthworks	Lighthouse
Motorway	Major roads	Minor roads	Tracks
PRoW - footpaths	PRoW - Bridleways	PRoW – byways	Solar PV
Wind turbines	Pylons / power lines	Masts / telecommunications	Railway line
Cuttings	Embankments	Flood defences	Chimneys
Tumuli	Trig points	Cycleway	Other

ADDITIONAL NOTES**FIELD PATTERNS**

Small	Medium	Large	Open
Assart	Open	Geometric	Regular
Banks	Ditches	Drainage channels	Irregular
Walls - rural	Walls - urban	Fences - urban	Fences - rural
Hedgerow - complete	Hedgerow - fragmented	Hedgerow with trees	Other

ADDITIONAL NOTES

BUILT / SETTLEMENT CHARACTER

Individual dwellings	Brick – traditional	Rendered	Permanent
Hamlets	Brick – modern	Slate tile	Temporary – fixed
Villages	Timber	Red tile	Temporary - mobile
Towns	Stone	thatch	Other
Cities			

Influence of the built form on the landscape



DESCRIPTION (size / pattern / density / age / styles / materials)

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LANDSCAPE

SETTLEMENT EDGE CHARACTERISTICS

Perceptual and Aesthetic Features

Views

Distant	Framed	Intermittent	Panoramic
Degraded			

Skyline

Undeveloped

Developed

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Scale

Intimate	Small	Medium	Large
----------	-------	--------	-------

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Enclosure

Confined	Enclosed	Semi-Enclosed	Open
Exposed			

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Variety

Complex	Varied	Simple	Uniform
---------	--------	--------	---------

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Texture

	Smooth		Textured		Rough		Abrasive
--	--------	--	----------	--	-------	--	----------

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Colour

	Monochrome		Muted		Colourful		Garish
	Natural		Unnatural				

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Movement

	Remote		Vacant		Peaceful		Active
	Busy						

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Unity

	Unified		Interrupted		Fragmented		Chaotic
--	---------	--	-------------	--	------------	--	---------

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Naturalness

	Undisturbed		Retained		Tamed		Re-Wild
	Disturbed		Confined		Artificial		

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Tranquillity

<input type="checkbox"/> Inaccessible	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Peaceful
<input type="checkbox"/> Not tranquil			

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Pattern

<input type="checkbox"/> Random	<input type="checkbox"/> Organised	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal
---------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Security

<input type="checkbox"/> Safe	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsettling	<input type="checkbox"/> Disturbing	<input type="checkbox"/> Threatening
-------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Noise

<input type="checkbox"/> Quiet	<input type="checkbox"/> Distant	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermittent	<input type="checkbox"/> Loud
--------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Other perceptual and aesthetic factors

Include memories, associations, touch, feel, smell noted during the field study

Key Characteristics

Written description of key characteristics and landscape character observed

Refinements to LCT or LCA Boundaries

Information on where, why and how boundaries between landscape character types or areas are being refined or defined

Involving People

Any notes / comments from interactions with people whilst performing the field survey

Data should be recorded in accordance with AECOM GDP policy

Evaluation

Landscape Quality

Positive features and characteristics valued for contribution to landscape character and ecosystem services
e.g., landform, habitat, field patterns, rights of way

Negative features and characteristics e.g., inappropriate design

Forces for Change

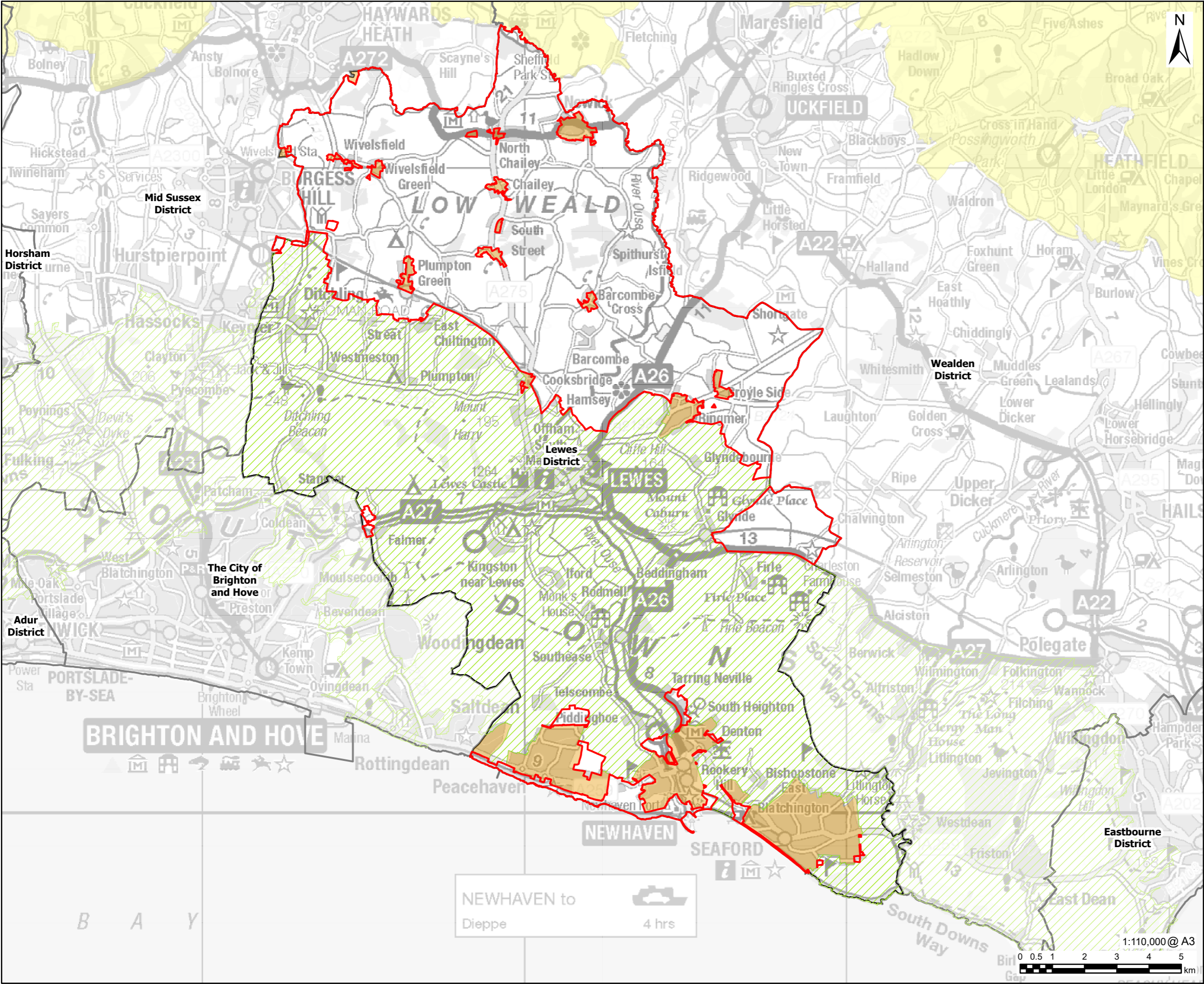
Key Issues / Forces for Change e.g., condition, development, land management, climate

Management Guidelines

Landscape Management e.g., agriculture, field patterns / boundaries, trees and woodland, rights of way

Built Development e.g., type of development appropriate, location of development, features to be included, features to be conserved

Any Other Comments



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LEGEND

- Study Area Boundary
- South Downs National Park
- District Boundary
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Settlements

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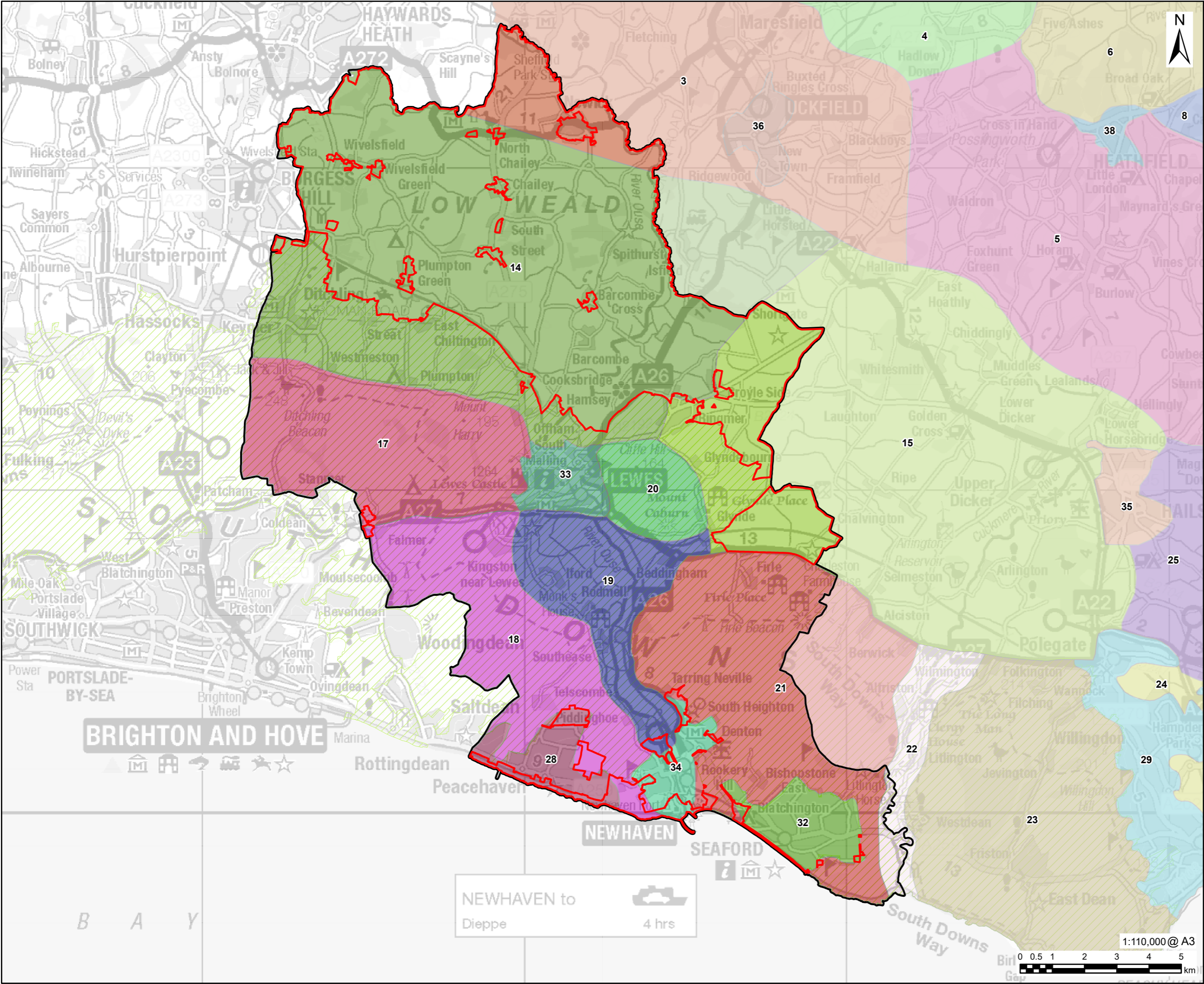
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FIGURE TITLE

Location and Landscape Designations

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 1



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- LEGEND**
- Study Area Boundary
 - Lewes District Boundary
 - South Downs National Park
- Landscape Character Area (Lewes District)**
- 3: Upper Ouse Valley
 - 4: Central High Weald
 - 5: South Slopes of High Weald
 - 6: Upper Rother Valley
 - 8: Dudwell Valley
 - 14: Western Low Weald
 - 15: Eastern Low Weald
 - 17: Ditchling - Mount Harry Downs
 - 18: Falmer - Telscombe Downs
 - 19: Lower Ouse Valley
 - 20: Lewes Downs
 - 21: Firle Bishopstone Downs
 - 22: Lower Cuckmere Valley
 - 23: Wilmington Heritage Downs
 - 24: Eastbourne Levels
 - 25: Pevensey Levels
 - 28: Saltdean - Peacehaven
 - 29: Eastbourne
 - 32: Seaford
 - 33: Lewes
 - 34: Newhaven
 - 35: Hailsham
 - 36: Uckfield
 - 38: Heathfield

NOTES

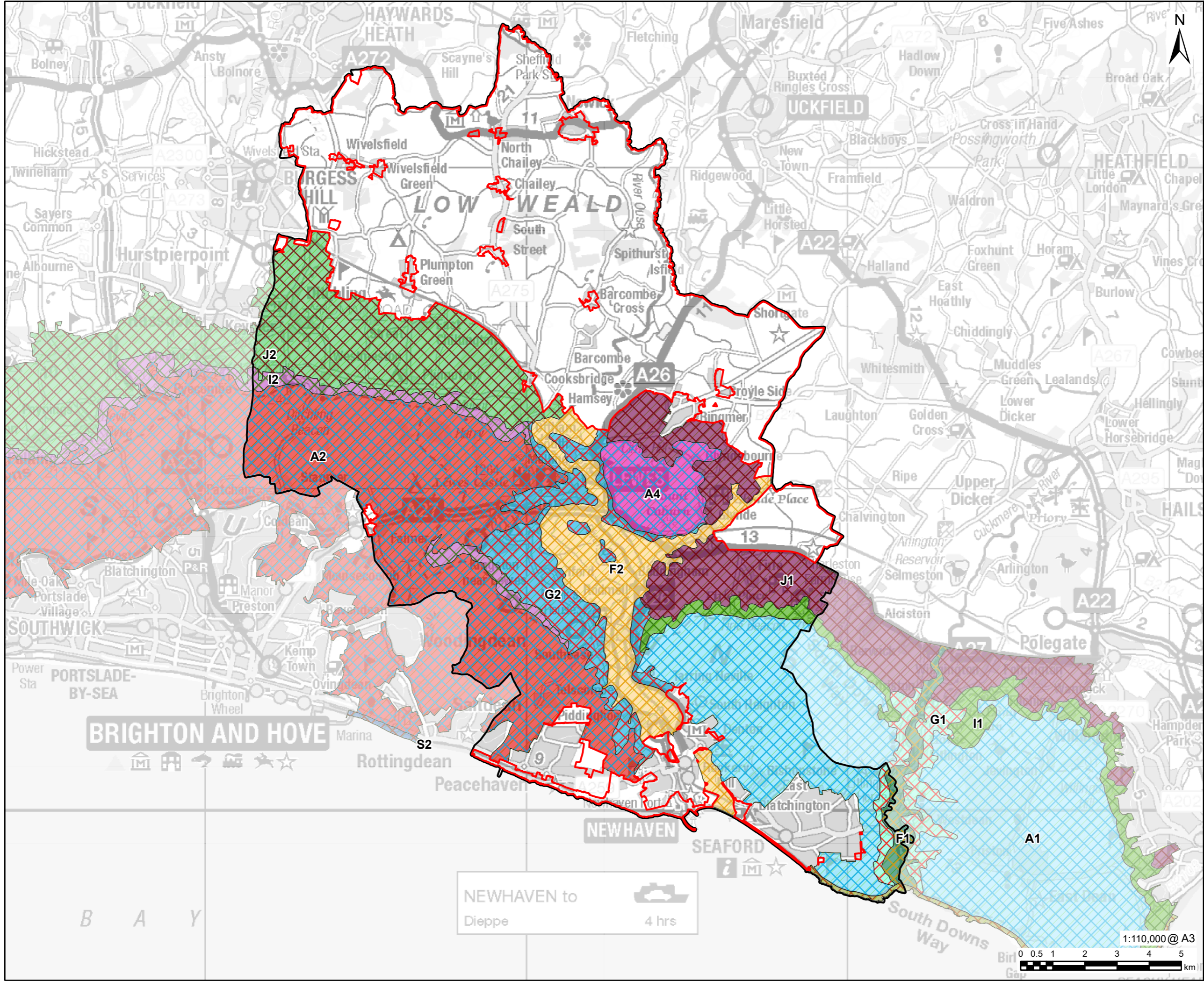
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FIGURE TITLE
East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment, 2016

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 3



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LEGEND

- Study Area Boundary
- Lewes District Boundary
- South Downs National Park
- Landscape Character Type**
 - A: Open Downland
 - F: Major Chalk River Floodplains
 - G: Major Chalk Valley Sides
 - I: Major Scarps
 - J: Scarp Footslopes
 - S: Shoreline
- Landscape Character Area**
 - A1: Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs
 - A2: Adur to Ouse Open Downs
 - A4: Mount Caburn
 - F1: Cuckmere Floodplain
 - F2: Ouse Floodplain
 - G1: Cuckmere Valley Sides
 - G2: Ouse Valley Sides
 - I1: Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp
 - I2: Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp
 - J1: Ouse to Eastbourne Scarp Footslopes
 - J2: Adur to Ouse Scarp Footslopes
 - S1: Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline
 - S2: Brighton to Rottingdean

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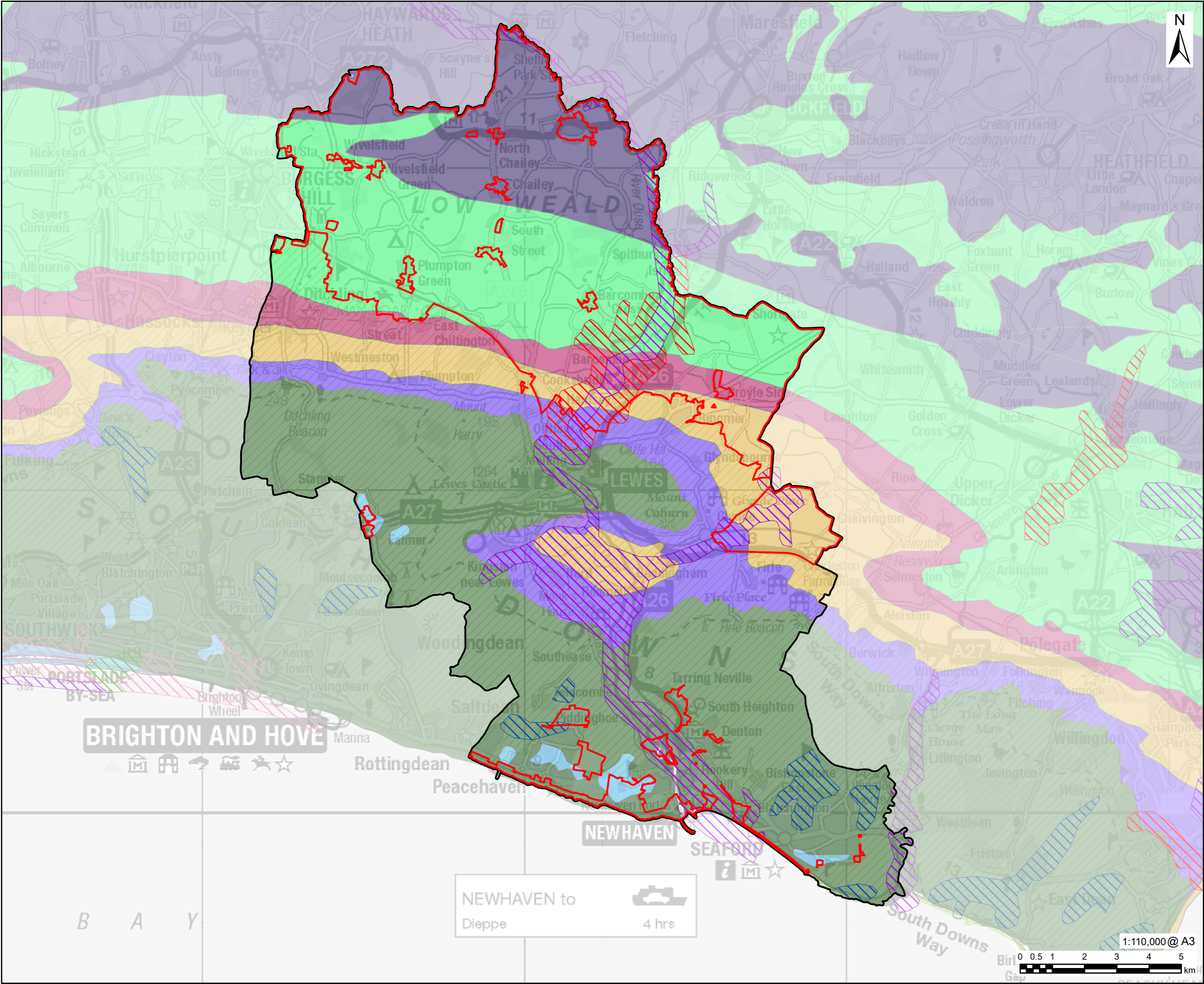
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FIGURE TITLE

South Downs National Park Landscape
Character Assessment, 2020

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 4



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LEGEND

- Study Area Boundary
- Lewes District Boundary
- South Downs National Park

Superficial deposits

- Alluvium
- Clay-with-Flints
- Raised Marine Deposits (Undifferentiated)
- River Terrace Deposits (Undifferentiated)
- Sand and Gravel of uncertain age and origin
- Brickearth
- Drift Geology not mapped
- Landslip

Bedrock Geology

- Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation (Undifferentiated) - Mudstone, Sandstone and Limestone
- Grey Chalk Subgroup - Chalk
- Lambeth Group - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel
- Lower Greensand Group - Sandstone and Mudstone
- Wealden Group - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone
- Wealden Group - Sandstone and Siltstone, Interbedded
- White Chalk Subgroup - Chalk
- Purbeck Limestone Group - Limestone and Mudstone, Interbedded
- Thames Group - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel

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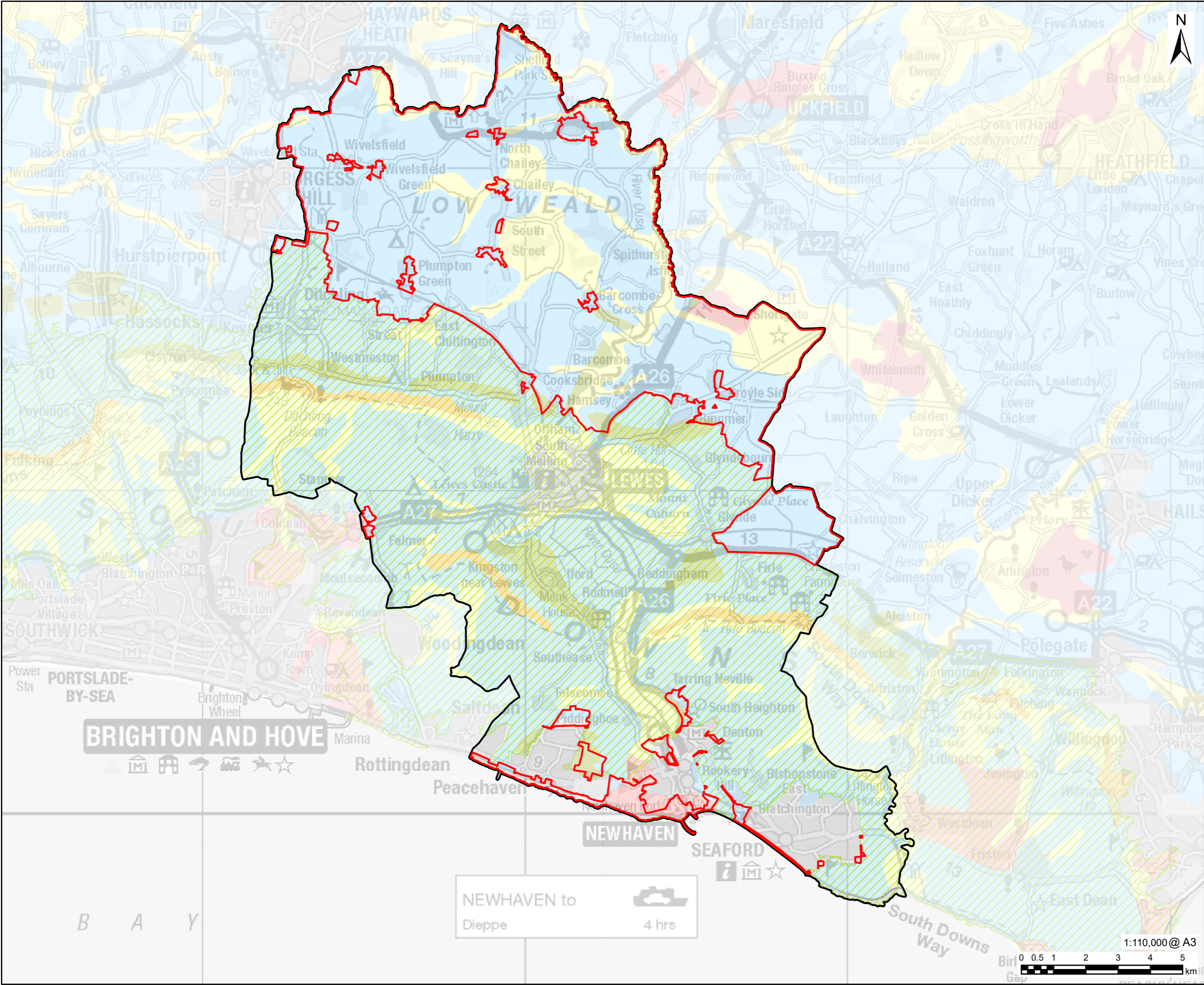
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FIGURE TITLE

Geology

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Figure 5



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LEGEND

- Study Area Boundary
- Lewes District Boundary
- South Downs National Park
- Agricultural Land Classification**
 - Grade 2
 - Grade 3
 - Grade 4
 - Grade 5
 - Non Agricultural
 - Urban

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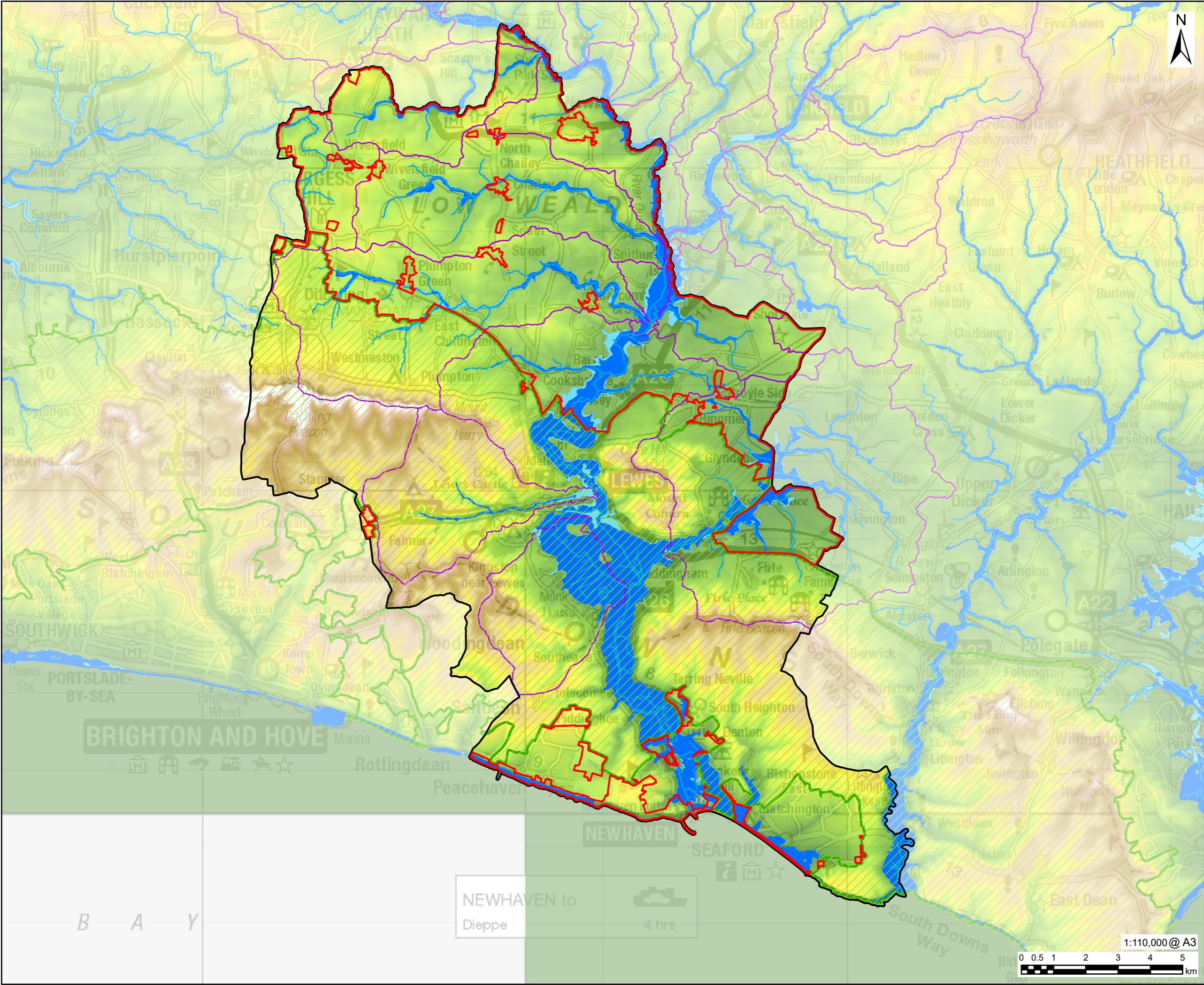
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FIGURE TITLE

Agricultural Land Classification

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 6



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- LEGEND**
- Study Area Boundary
 - Lewes District Boundary
 - Catchments Areas
 - South Downs National Park
 - Rivers
 - Flood Zone 3
 - Flood Zone 2

Topography
250m
-5m

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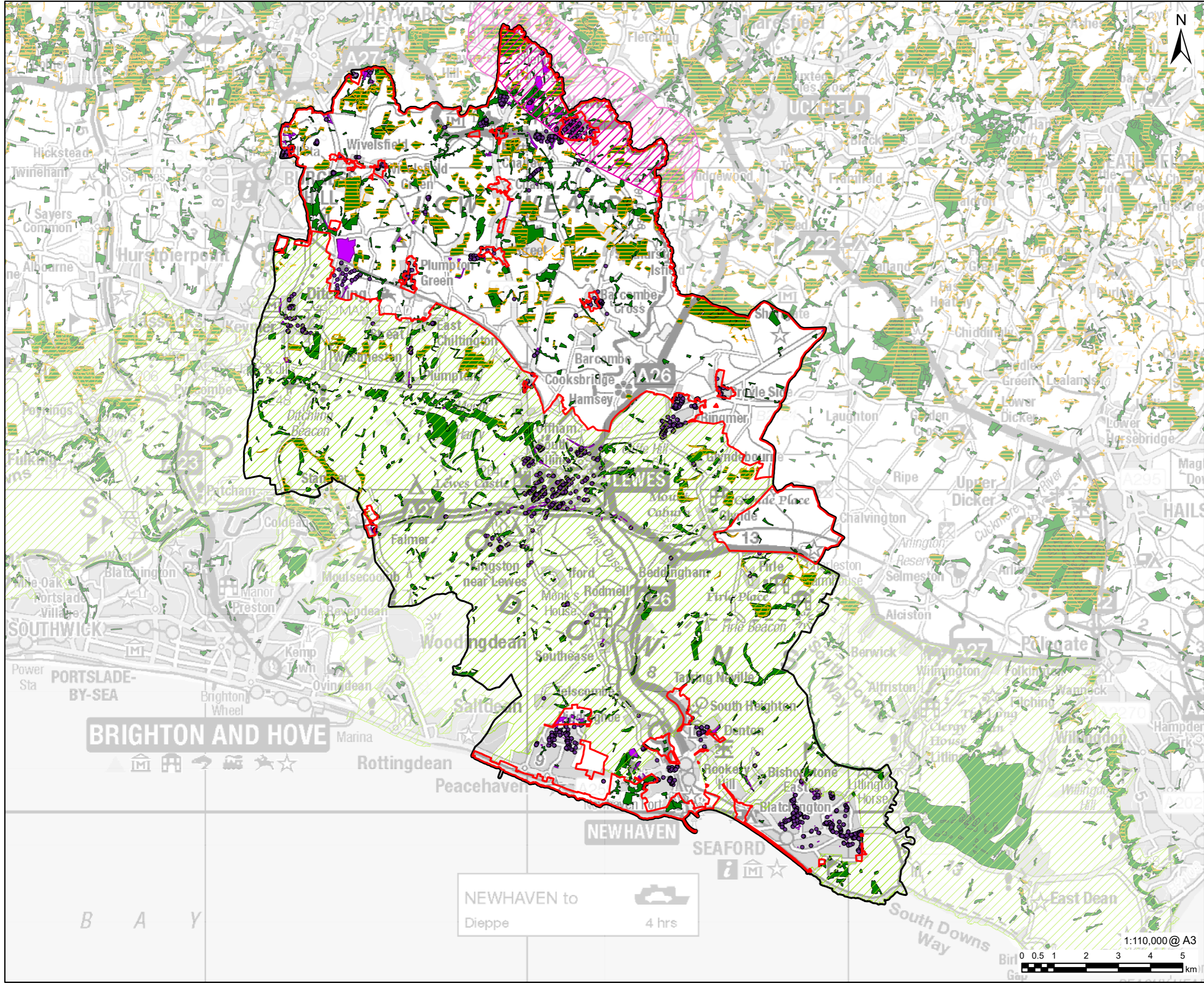
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FIGURE TITLE
Topography and Hydrology

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Figure 7



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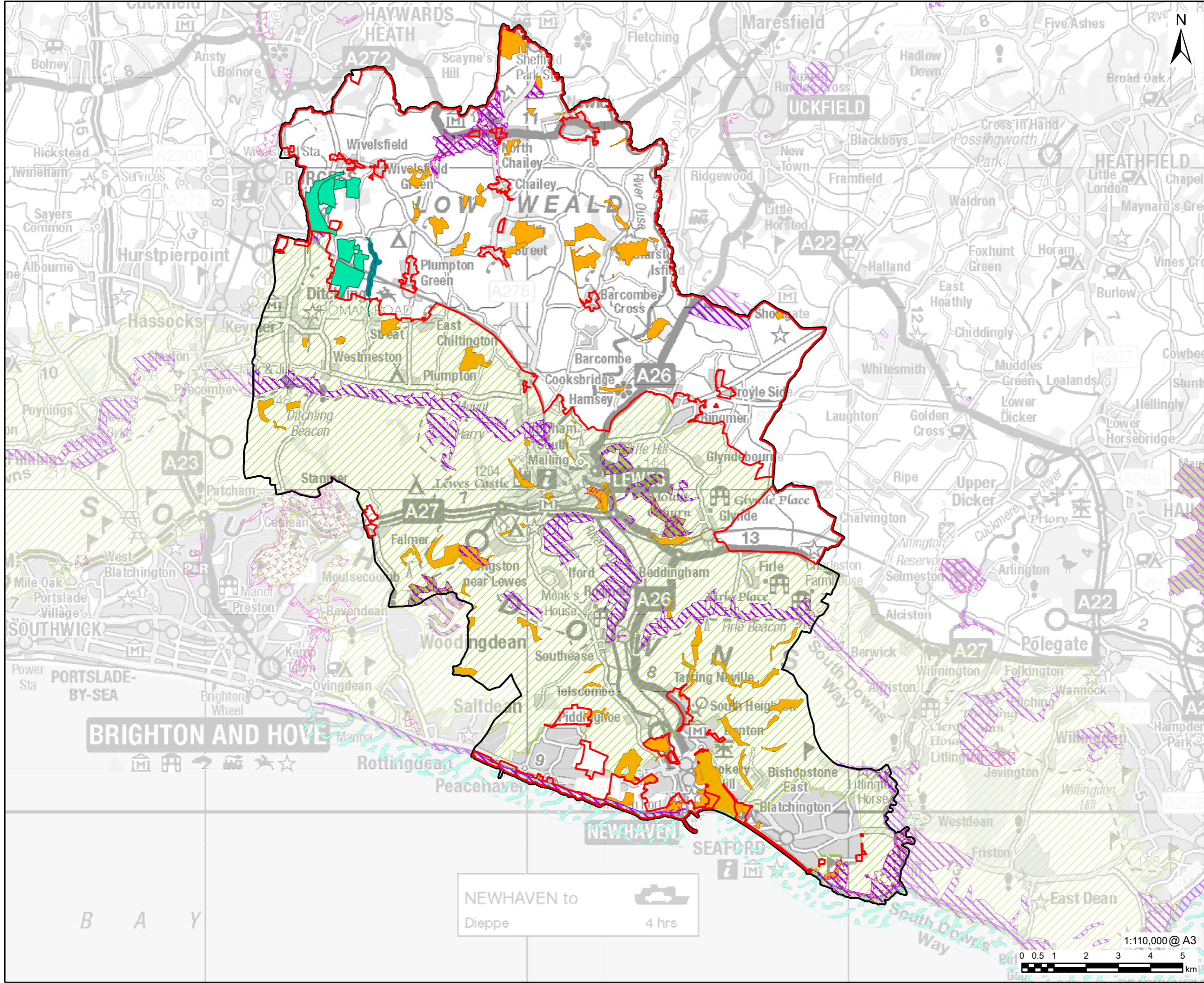
- LEGEND**
- Study Area Boundary
 - Lewes District Boundary
 - South Downs National Park
 - Ashdown Forest 7km Zone
 - Ancient Woodland
 - Tree Preservation Order
 - National Forest Inventory

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FIGURE TITLE
Flora and Fauna

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 8



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LEGEND

- Study Area Boundary
- Lewes District Boundary
- South Downs National Park
- Safeguard and Enhance Green Infrastructure
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Marine Conservation (MCZ)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Protected Local Green Space
- Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

NOTES

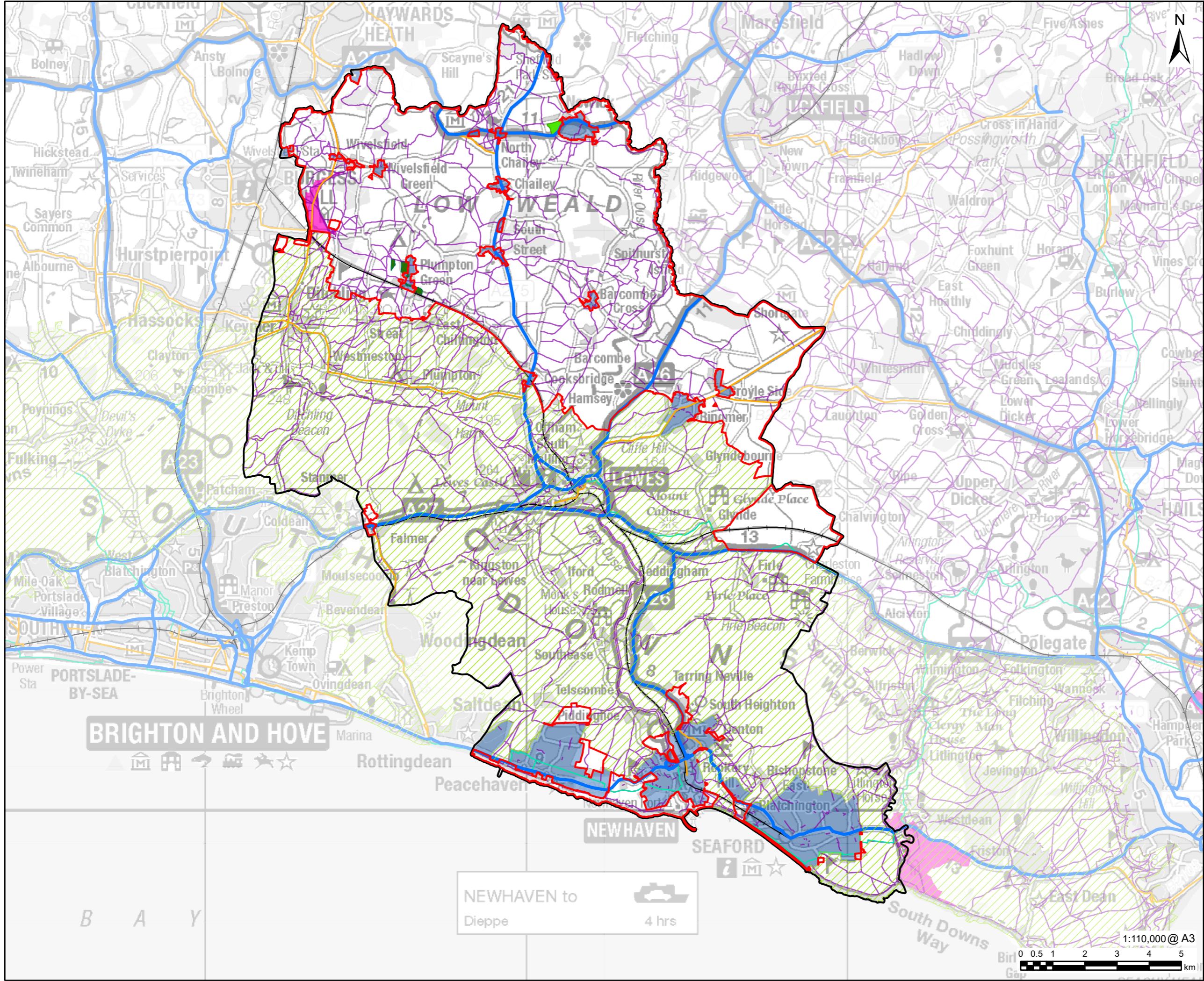
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FIGURE TITLE
Nature Conservation Designations

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 9



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- LEGEND**
- Study Area Boundary
 - Lewes District Boundary
 - South Downs National Park
 - A Road
 - B Road
 - Railway Line
 - National Cycle Network
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Local Green Space
 - Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace
 - Settlements
 - Country Parks

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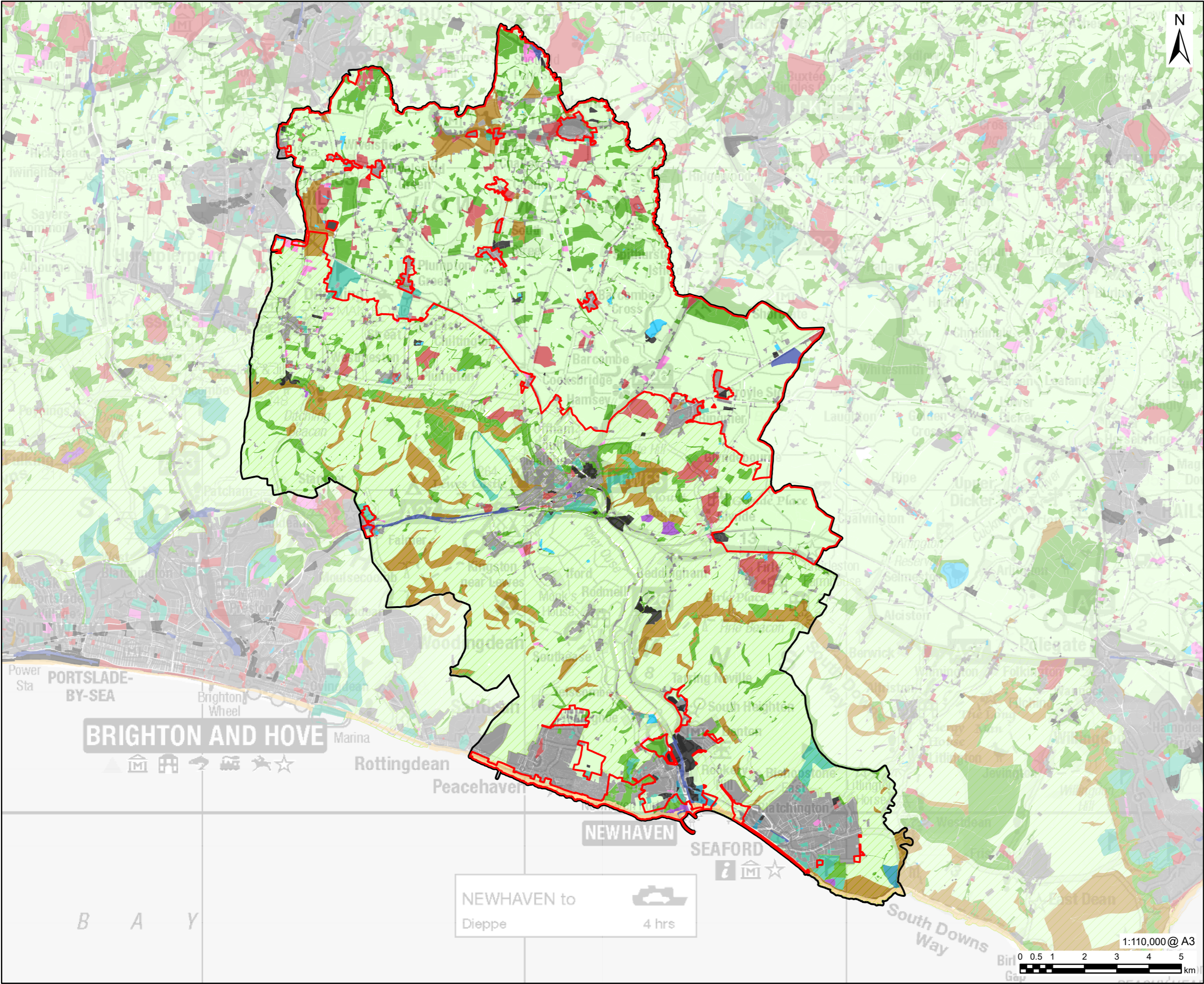
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FIGURE TITLE

Movements and Settlement Patterns

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 10



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- LEGEND**
- Study Area Boundary
 - Lewes District Boundary
 - South Downs National Park
 - Historic Landscape Character**
 - Broad Type**
 - Coastal
 - Communications
 - Designed Landscapes
 - Fields
 - Horticulture
 - Industry
 - Military
 - Reclaimed Marshland
 - Recreation
 - Settlement
 - Unimproved/Unenclosed
 - Water
 - Woodland

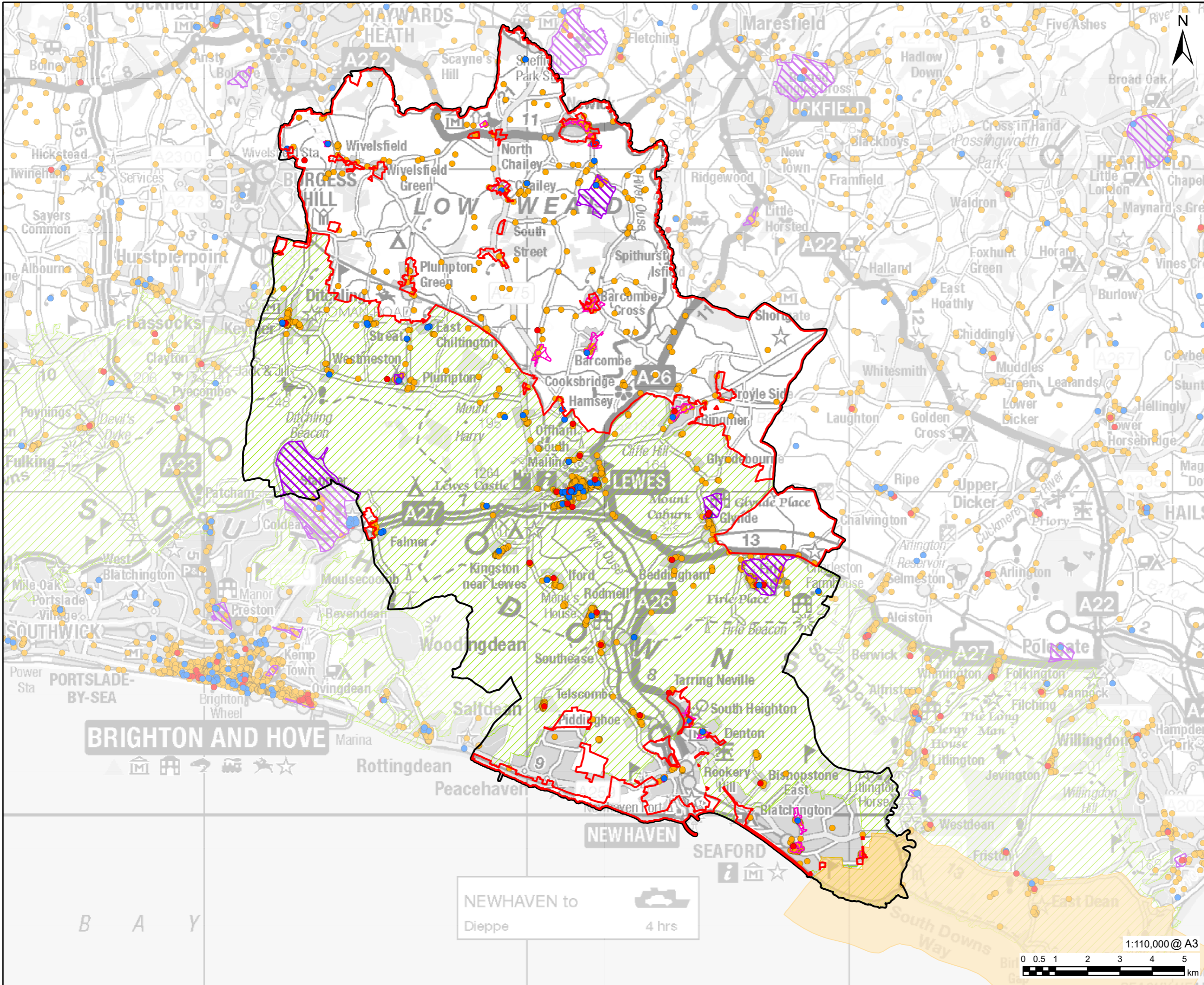
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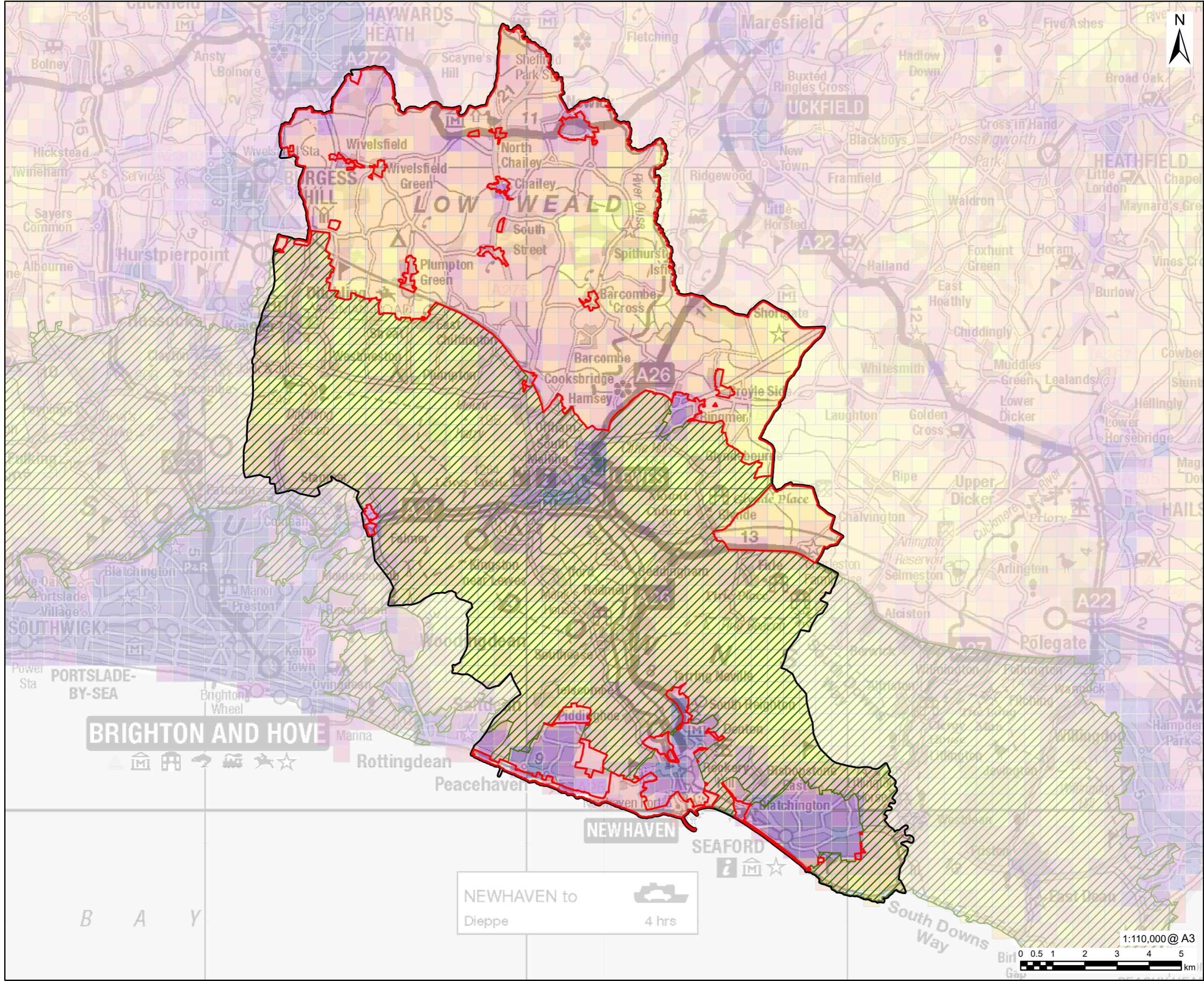
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FIGURE TITLE
Historic Landscape Character

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 11



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LEGEND

- Study Area Boundary
- Lewes District Boundary
- South Downs National Park
- CPRE Tranquillity Mapping Score**
- Least Tranquil
- Most Tranquil

NOTES

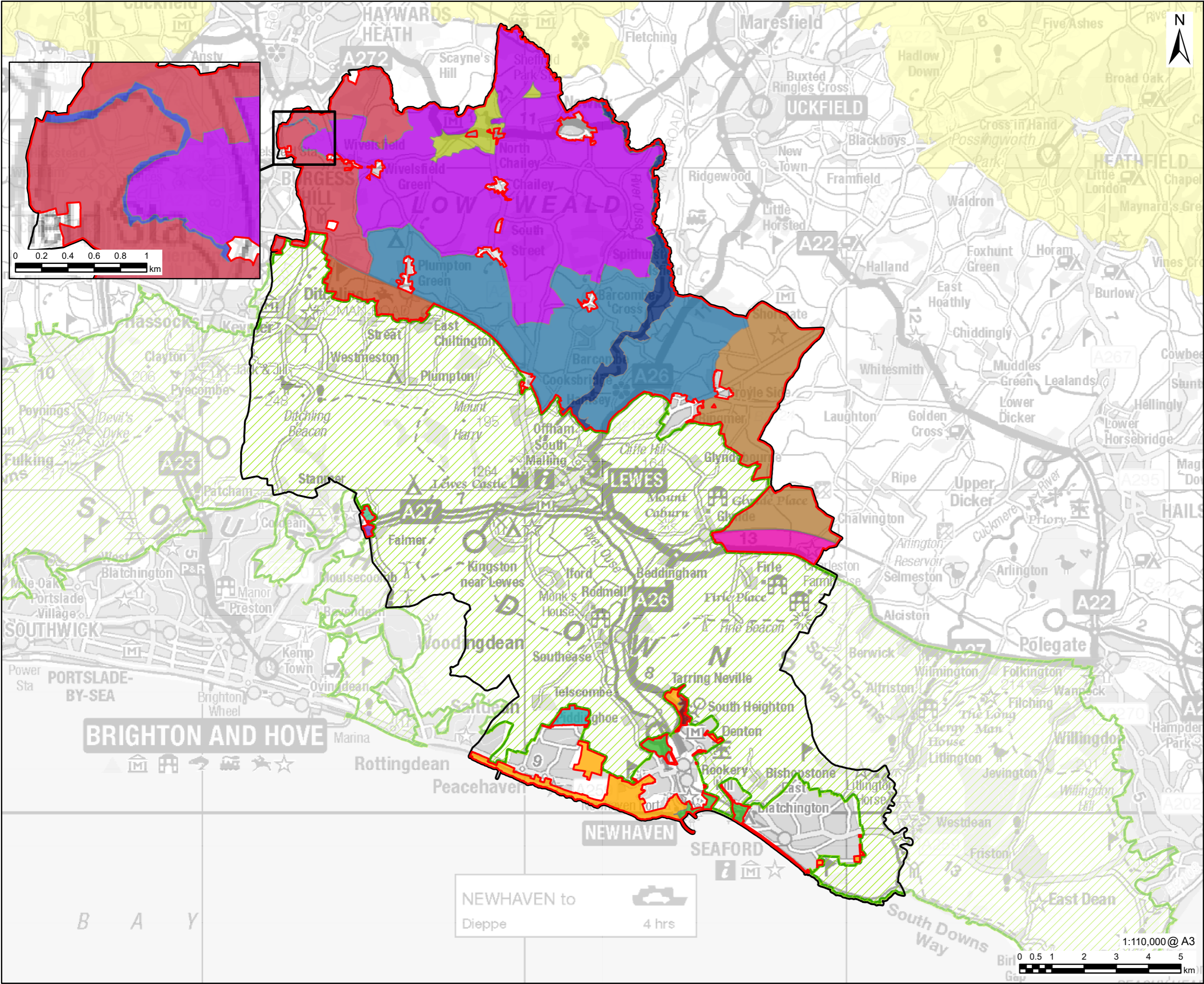
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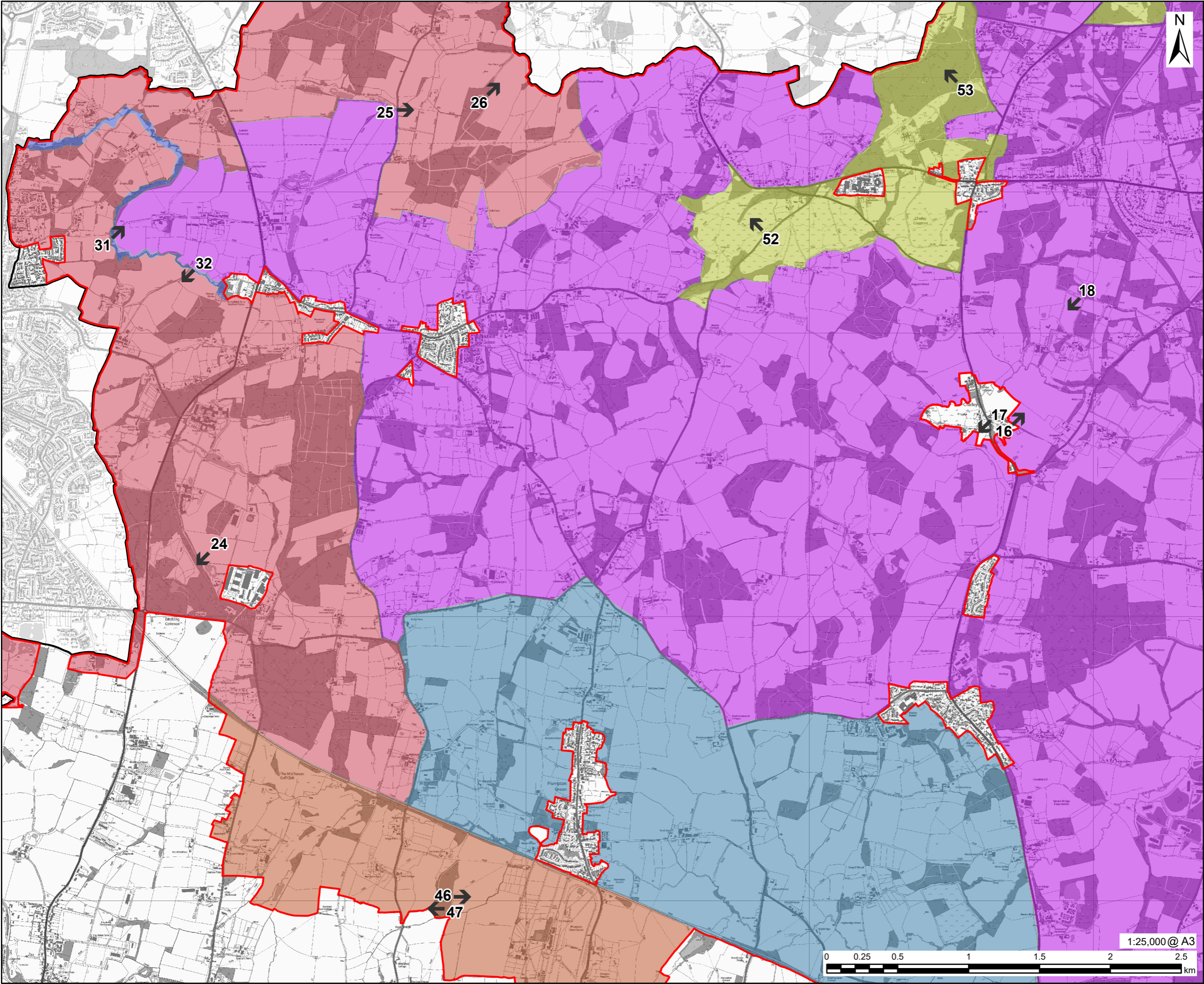
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FIGURE TITLE
The Countryside Charity Tranquillity Mapping

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 13



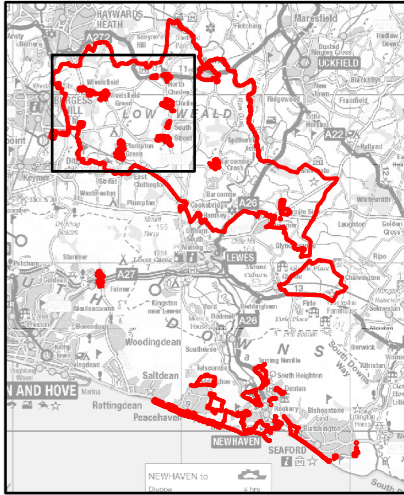


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- LEGEND**
- Study Area Boundary
 - Lewes District Boundary
 - Landscape Character Area Photo Location**
 - East
 - North-East
 - North-West
 - South-West
 - West
 - Landscape Character Areas**
 - C2 Barcombe, Plumpton and Cooksbridge Western Low Weald
 - G1 Chailey Common Heathland
 - C3 Ditchling Common Western Low Weald
 - F1 Plumpton Scarp Footslope
 - E1 Wivelsfield Ouse Catchment
 - C1 Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald



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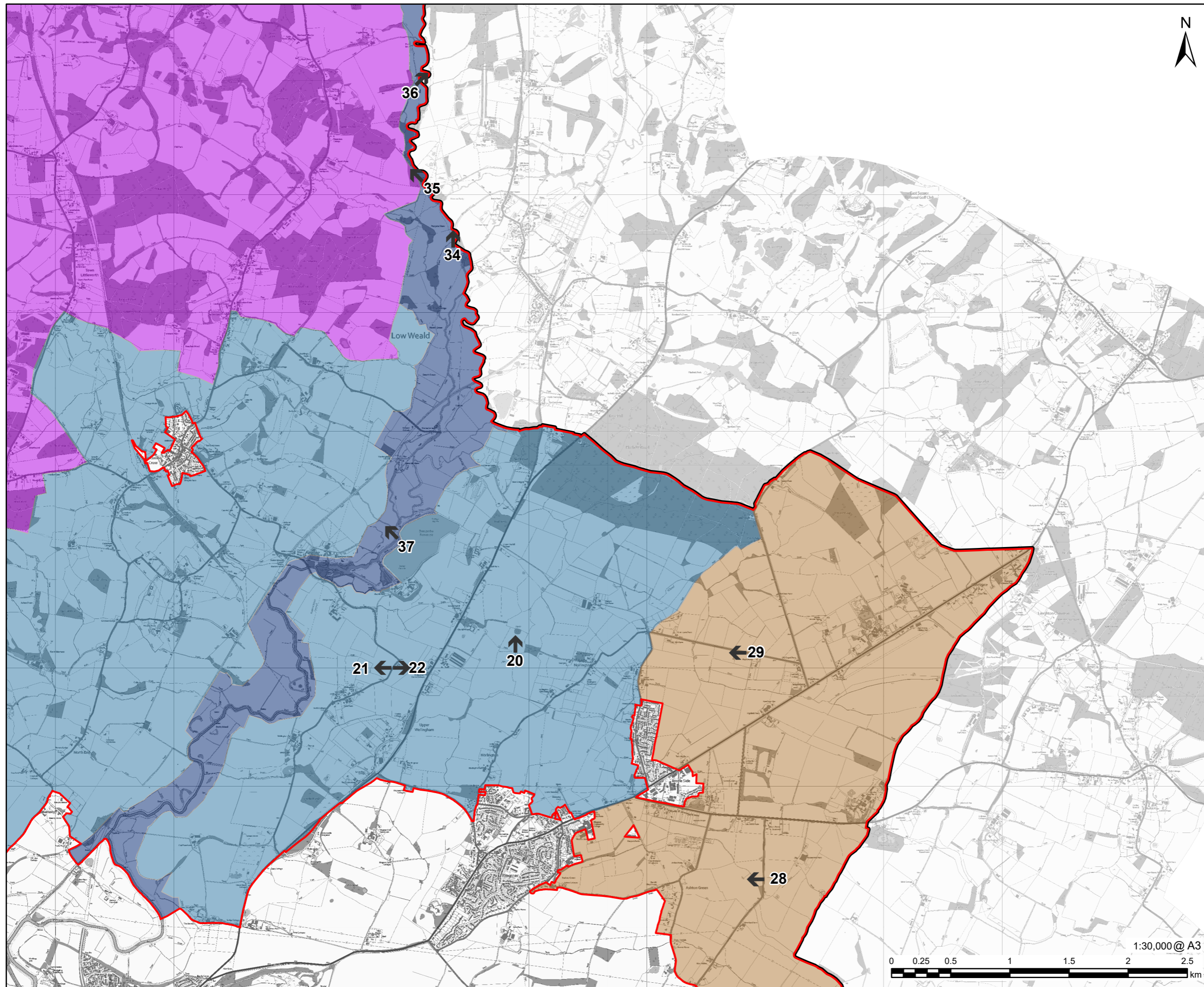
ISSUE PURPOSE
FINAL

PROJECT NUMBER
60676353

FIGURE TITLE
Lewes Landscape Character Areas
Photo Locations

FIGURE NUMBER
Figure 17A

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**AECOM**

PROJECT

Lewes Landscape Character Assessment



CLIENT

Lewes District Council

CONSULTANT

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LEGEND

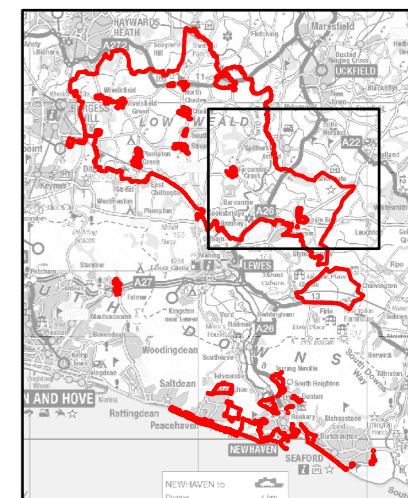
-  Study Area Boundary Lewes District
 Boundary

Landscape Character Area Photo Location

- East
↑ North
↗ North-East
↖ North-West
← West

Landscape Character Areas

-  C2 Barcombe, Plumpton and Cooksbridge Western Low Weald
-  D1 Glynde and Ringmer Eastern Low Weald
-  E2 Lewes Ouse Catchment
-  C1 Wivelsfield, Newick and Chailey Western Low Weald



NOTES

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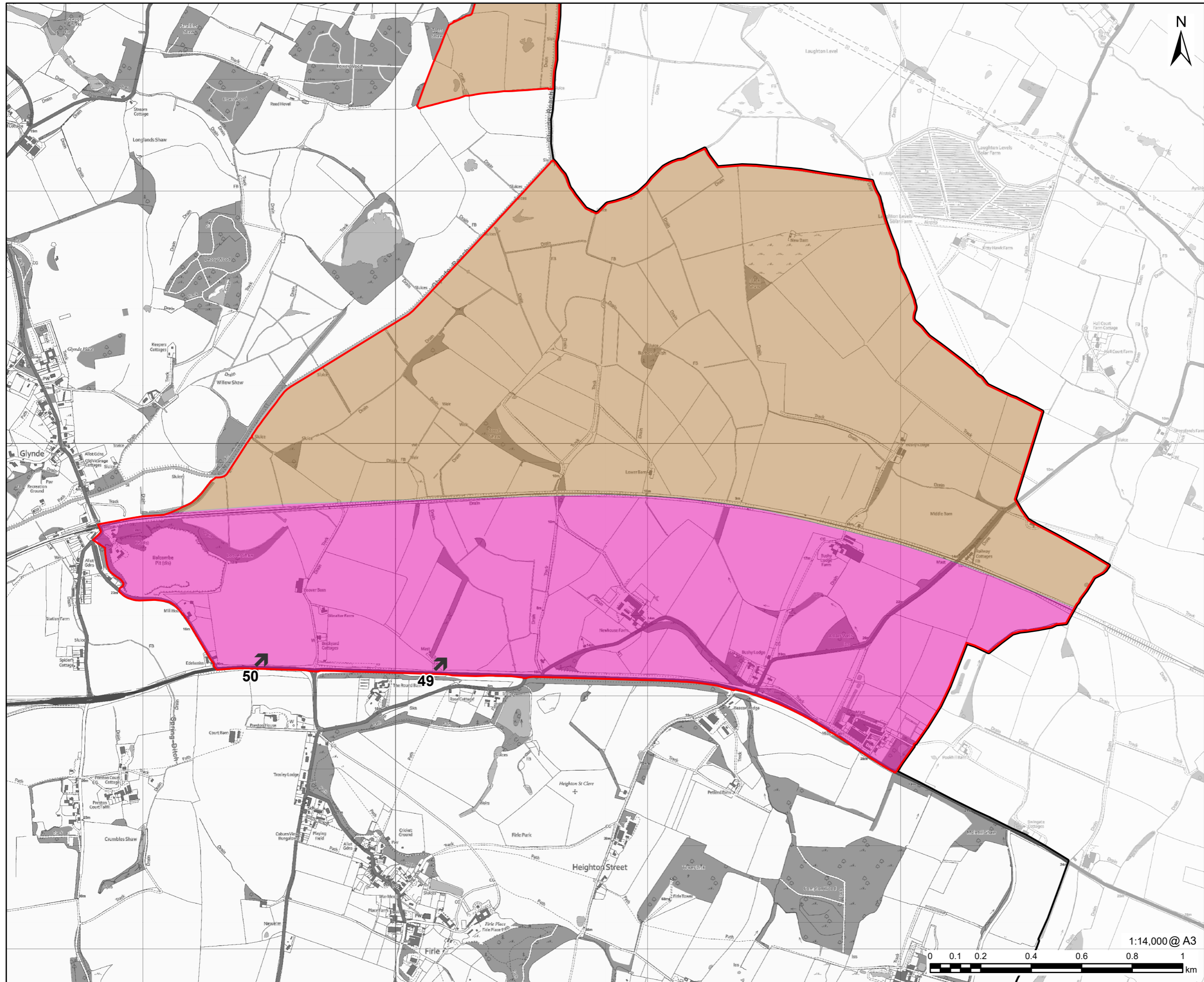
FIGURE TITLE

Lewes Landscape Character Areas
Photo Locations

FIGURE NUMBER



Figure 17B

[illegible]



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 A2 Falmer Arena
 A1 Falmer Playing Fields

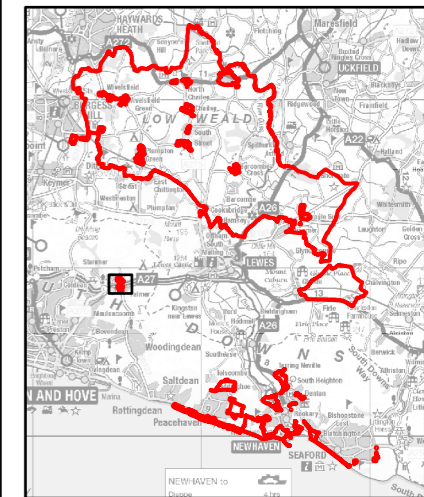


Figure 17E